



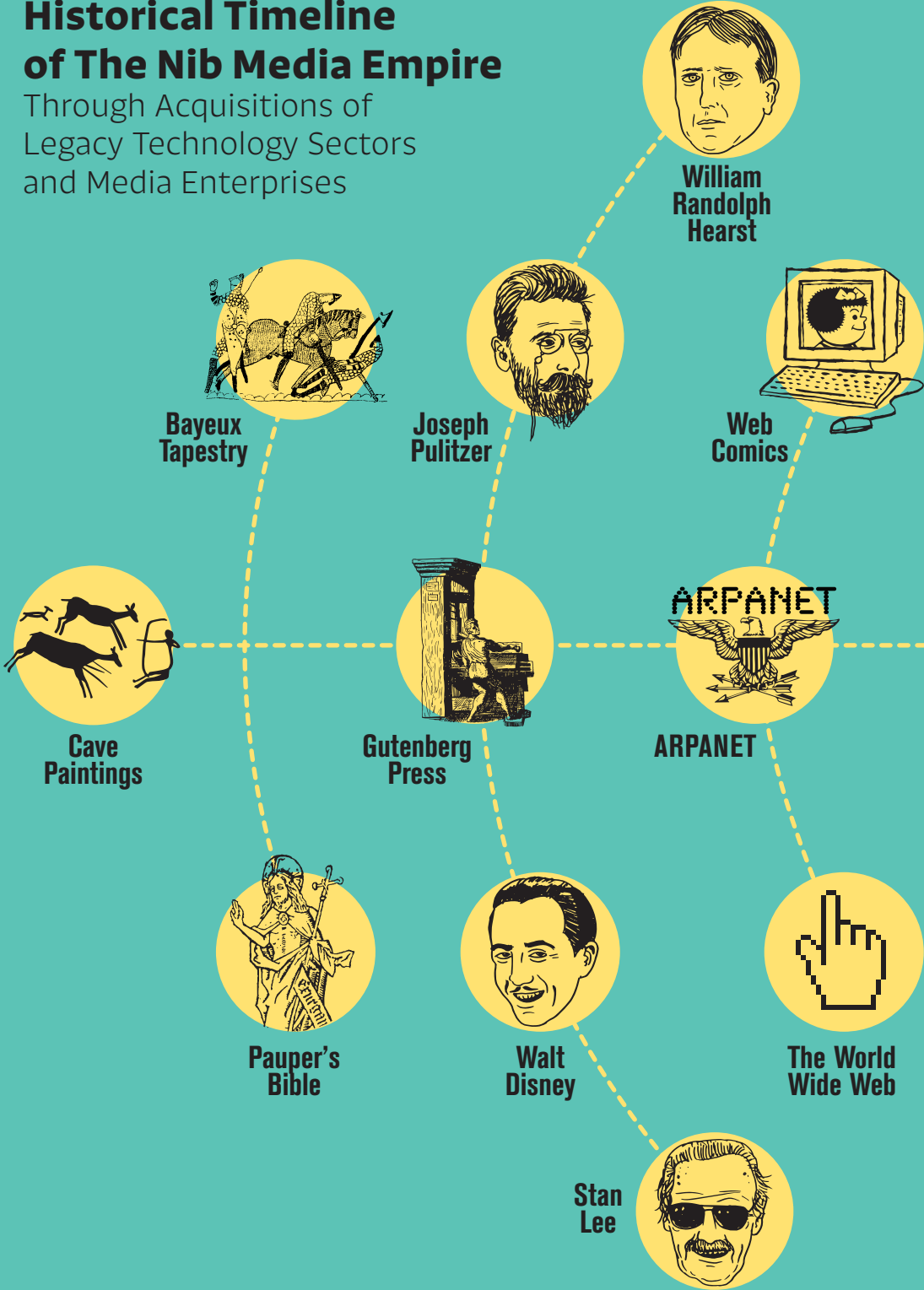
EMPIRE



T H E
N I B

Historical Timeline of The Nib Media Empire

Through Acquisitions of
Legacy Technology Sectors
and Media Enterprises



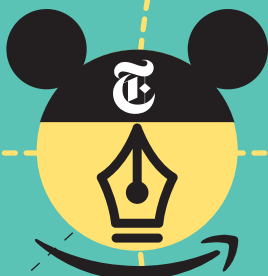
THE NIB

EMPIRE

The Nib is founded in 2013 as a small mom-and-pop content enterprise.



Through a series of shrewd financial maneuvers and sheer brute force, The Nib becomes the world's largest media conglomerate by the year 2042.



The Nib Publishing Division

The Nib Advanced Research Group

2021

During the second Trump Administration, The Nib creates a highly secretive division devoted to comics research, financial services, and military intelligence.

2022

The Nib wins the remains of Thomson Reuters in a poker game.



2025

The Nib buys the failing New York Times on a whim.



The Nib Media Division

2026

The Nib picks up a bankrupt AT&T for pennies on the dollar.



2028

A senile Rupert Murdoch signs over what's left of 21st Century Fox.



2029

Hostile takeover of Disney in the bloody cartoon wars.



2030

The Nib amasses 51% of Comcast through a campaign of investor terror and intimidation.



2025

The Nib leads investor revolt to take over Facebook after Voight-Kampff test proves Zuck is a replicant.



2042

The Nib wins majority stake in Amazon by conquering all 35 Amazon regional headquarters.



The Nib Infotech Division



HOA HAKANANAI'A
Easter Island

Stolen 1868

"We are just a body. You, the British
people, have our soul."

- Governor Tarita Alarcón Rapu

FOUR YEARS AGO, THE EXTREME EVIL OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE **REALLY HIT HOME.**

I was standing in front of a set of crumbling jail cells on a virtually abandoned, desolate island in the Tasman Sea, a five-hour hike from the nearest ferry terminal, 30 minutes by water to the nearest road.

The cells had been built to house convicts in 1825 on Maria Island, off the coast of Tasmania, which is itself an island off the coast of Australia (an island). The inmates were English thieves and pickpockets and prostitutes and Irish separatists. Like the colonies in Sydney and Hobart town, Maria Island was somewhere for Britain to exile its unwanted people while simultaneously expanding their settler colonies across the globe.

It's so far south, it's the last stop before Antarctica.

I grew up not far away, in Hobart, a Tasmanian city that exists solely because the British lost the American portion of their empire and sought to build anew in Australia. A country that voted in my lifetime to remain part of said empire.

The same people imprisoned by the empire and sentenced to "transportation" in the colonies went on to commit unspeakable atrocities. The indigenous Palawa people of Tasmania were slaughtered in the name of Britain's colonial project. In high school, I learned about the 1830 "Black Line" from a tearful sociology teacher. It was a military offensive with a genocidal objective. Over 2,000 white civilian colonists, convicts, and soldiers traveled across the island in moving columns, a line, kidnapping and murdering all the Aboriginal people they found.

For our third issue, we're looking at empires. Colonial empires, digital empires, corporate empires. We're looking at the human repercussions of empire. We're looking at decolonization. We're looking at the construction and the fall of empires.

In 1921, at its height, the British Empire covered a quarter of the world. Queen Elizabeth II only rules over a mere fraction now, just 16 countries.

Australia has itself gone on to behave as an empire might in our own little corner of the Pacific: imposing neocolonial relationships on many of Oceania's small island nations, like Papua New Guinea and

East Timor, and sending our unwanted—foreign refugees—to live in prisons on isolated islands: Naru, Christmas Island, Manus Island.

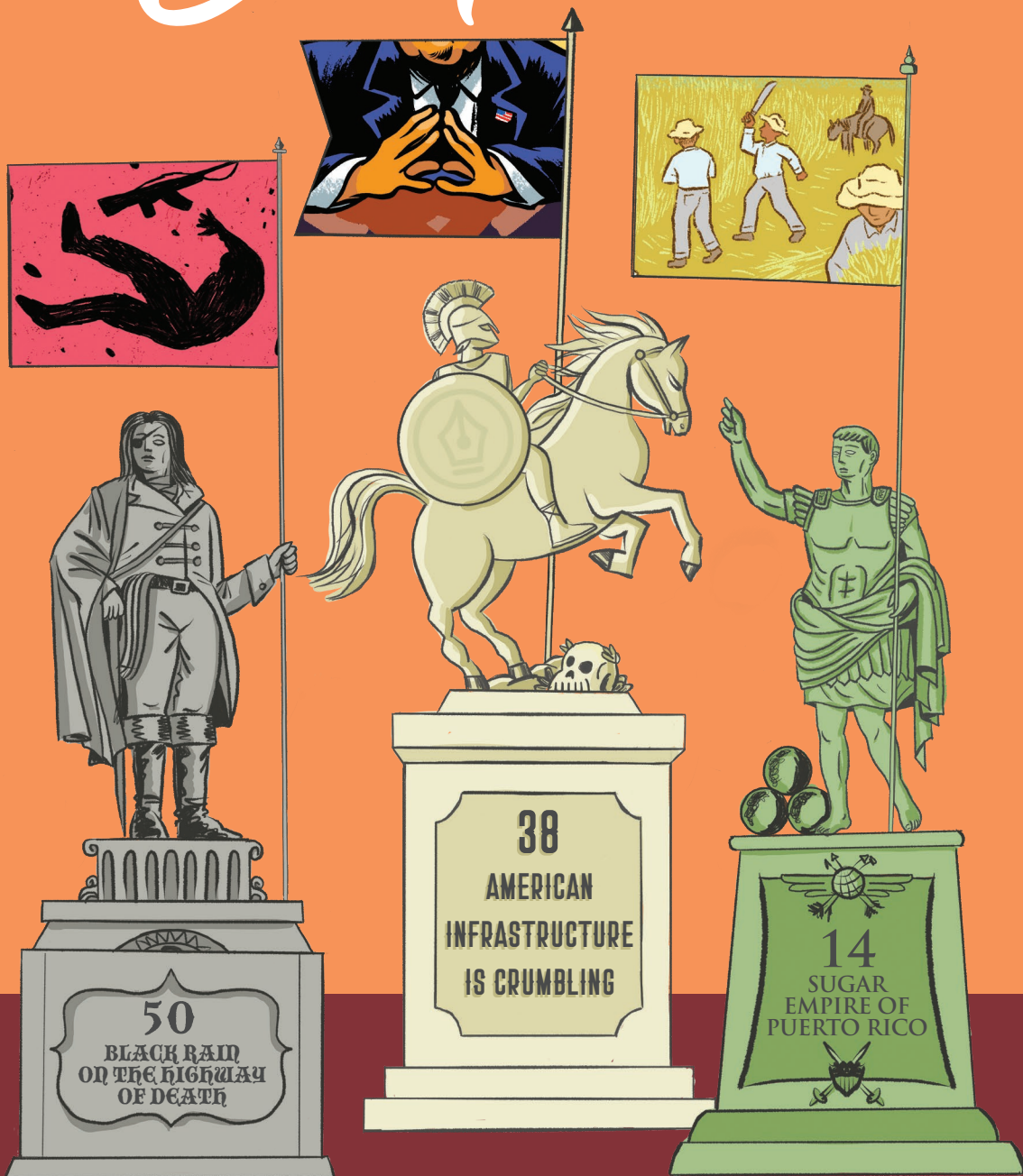
Last year, I sat down to coffee in Portland, Oregon, with a man my age who had been shot in a jail on Manus Island. His name is Pyae and he also grew up in a former British colony, Burma/Myanmar. He was forced to flee his homeland because of rolling political fallout from the decolonization process. He spent five years in an Australian prison camp on an island off mainland Papua New Guinea.

There we were, two people whose lives have been shaped by the empire whose sun never sets, speaking in English, discussing the fall of their former colony—turned—crumbling empire: America. It seems we're all forever bound to muddle our way through the turmoil of empires, as they rise, shift, and collapse around us.

Eleri Harris
Deputy Editor
The Nib

Empire

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TRULY A MUG
AND TOTE
FOR OUR TIMES

WITH NIB MERCHANDISE

Ah, you criticize society yet you live in society? And buy products that support *The Nib*? We need to eat and you need

to drink coffee and carry things. Let's have an exchange of value at thenib.com/inkwell.

THE  NIB



DISPATCHES

FORTRESS

SOFIE
Dam

It's March 2017. I've just arrived in Alexander Hamilton Airport in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands in the Caribbean.

Nice to finally meet you!

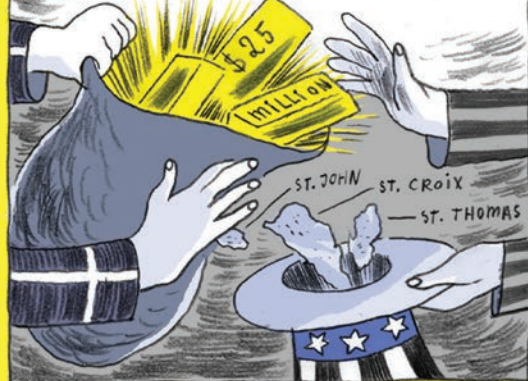
You too.

I WASN'T SURE WHO TO EXPECT - THE LADY NEXT TO ME ON THE PLANE SAID TO LOOK FOR A TALL, BLOND PERSON, BECAUSE APPARENTLY THAT'S WHAT ALL DANES LOOK LIKE. HA-HA!

WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT TO see me THEN!

NOT AT ALL.

This year, it is a hundred years since Denmark - my birth country - sold its Caribbean colony to the U.S.A. - Khury's birth country.



We connected online because of a comic I'd done.



KHURY PS



My full name is Khury Petersen Smith. Petersen is a Danish name. Two of my grandparents come from St. Croix in the Caribbean. It used to be a Danish colony. When my family was enslaved, they were owned by Danish slave-owners.

Oh btw, what's your email address? :)

My email address is
shit_ididnotknowwehadacolonyintheCaribbean
@colonialamnesia.dk

(A bit of an exaggeration, but not completely.)

The reasons why the Caribbean colonies faded from Danish collective memory are complex.



LOST
1658

But crucial is the handling of Denmark's change from monarchy to democracy in 1849 and the loss of its German settlements in 1864.

State-commissioned intellectuals crafted a new, unifying identity to support the smaller democracy, drawing from Scandinavian prehistory, language, and peasant culture, while ignoring European colonial conquest. With an absence of Caribbean descendants and clear physical traces of the colonies, when Denmark cut ties in 1917, the story stuck.

It is painful to recognize so many particularly Danish markers of a very violent past scattered in the hills and slopes of St. Croix.

The sugar mills and great house ruins.



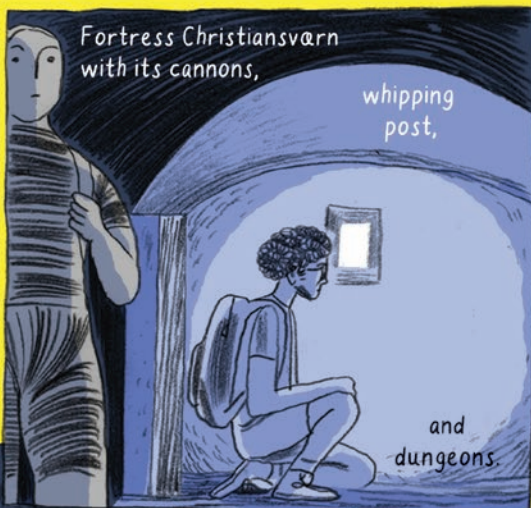
The streets and towns named after Danish kings and queens.



That humble nation that I grew up with, its story told through anthems, folktales, and notably brief colonial history chapters in textbooks, is nowhere to be seen.

Fortress Christiansvørn with its cannons,

whipping post,



and dungeons.

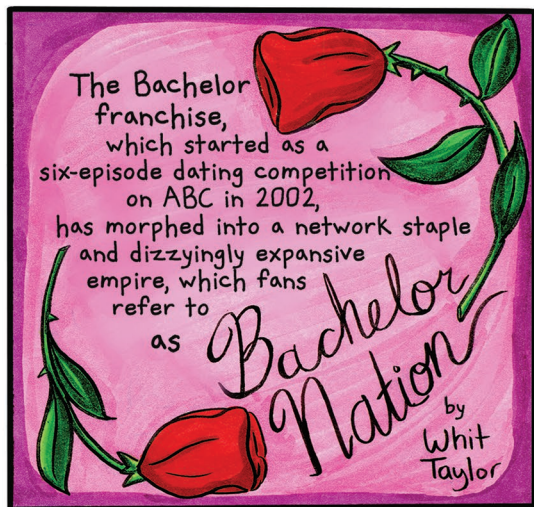
Two years after my trip to St. Croix, Denmark has finally got its first monument marking its colonial past.

Knife and torch in hand, she guards the West Indian Warehouse in Copenhagen. The sculpture, made in surface-treated Styrofoam, is temporary.



A 22-foot-tall depiction of Queen Mary, a USVI national icon who led a 1878 rebellion against the Danish soldiers.

The artists, Danish-Caribbean Jeannette Ehlers and St. Croix native La Vaughn Belle, are looking for funding to cast the queen in bronze.



From those shows have emerged podcasts, wikis, blogs, fantasy leagues, lifestyle brands, and former contestants eager to break out as social media celebrities.

joelle-fletcher

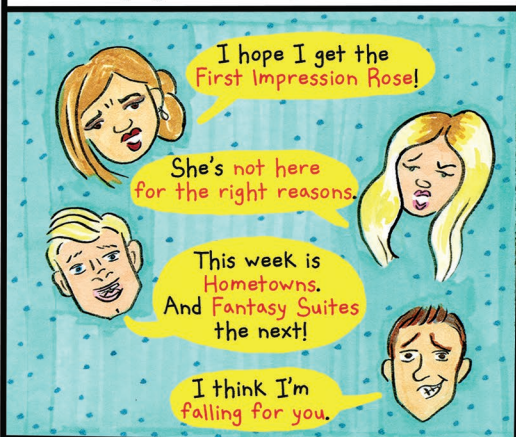


♡♡♡

Liked by 85,763

joelle_fletcher Waiting on you fall. Fletch Babes, we will be launching our fall collection in a few weeks @shopfletch

The show also has evolved its own language and customs over time.



Despite the show's comically low relationship success rate, Bachelor Nation also serves as a public social club that fosters relationships between former cast members. These alumni serve as a reserve of characters who can join subsequent seasons at any time.



Like other reality television shows, 'The Bachelor' is built on the professional wrestling premise of kayfabe. This is an unspoken agreement between the show and its audience to suspend disbelief in order to invest in the premise and characters.



'The Bachelor' was created with the 18-34 female demographic in mind. It is an "unscripted" soap opera for women raised on Disney fairytales and the idea of "happily ever after."



The aesthetics of the show are a tongue-in-cheek, cheesy throwback to the early 2000s, largely unchanged since the show started.



The franchise is a study in contradictions. While based on a stereotypical "Real America"—white, Christian, conservative, heteronormative, and small town—its contestants often aspire to entertainment careers in the liberal coastal stronghold of Los Angeles.



It stresses the sanctity of marriage and monogamy, yet builds dramatic tension by encouraging hookups and polyamorous story lines.



As the demographic makeup and social attitudes of America have changed in the last twenty years, The Bachelor franchise has struggled to adequately keep up with and address issues around race and gender.



Yet millions of fans—including those who identify as feminists—continue to watch these shows. Whether viewed aspirationally or ironically, the franchise's success lies in its formula: anachronistic, fantastical, and completely deliberate.



by Victoria Lomasko

The Way Out



Coming back to Moscow after another trip to the U.S., I felt like we are sprouting here like weeds on the body of a former empire.



There is an economic crisis in Russia. You can see it in people's faces.



But if you ask:

Would you ever want to live and work in America?

Het!
(No!)

America offers many opportunities, but you have to fight for them.



There were recent demonstrations in Russia against raising the age of retirement, but even they failed to draw crowds. Mostly, it's pensioners who come out.



Should I fly away into my own personal cosmos? Like the man from the most famous Russian art installation?



"The man who flew into space from his apartment" by Ilya Kabakov in his studio, Moscow, 1985

Ilya Kabakov emigrated from the USSR in 1989. He lives and works in New York. He is the most successful living Russian artist.



But was he ever able to escape the Russia inside himself?

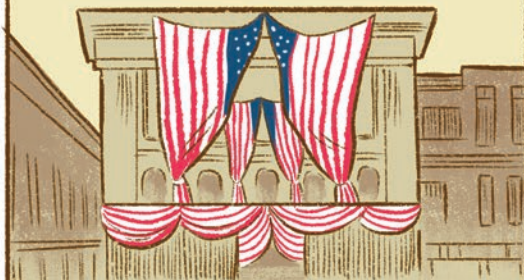
The Sugar Empire of Puerto Rico

by Rosa Colón



IN 1898, THE U.S. EMERGED VICTORIOUS FROM THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR, GIVING IT FREE REIN UNDER THE TREATY OF PARIS TO INVADE AND OCCUPY THE FORMER SPANISH COLONY OF PUERTO RICO.

AFTER A BRIEF MILITARY RULE, THE U.S. ESTABLISHED A COLONIAL CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT WITH OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT MCKINLEY HIMSELF.



CHARLES HERBERT ALLEN, WHO HAD SERVED UNDER MCKINLEY AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, WAS APPOINTED GOVERNOR.

ALLEN HAD BEEN A CONGRESSMAN AND SENATOR BUT WAS A BUSINESSMAN FIRST AND FOREMOST. HE IMMEDIATELY HALTED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND RAISED PROPERTY TAXES ON THE ISLAND.



HE OUTSOURCED ALL CONTRACTS TO U.S. COMPANIES - INCLUDING HIS FATHER'S LUMBER BUSINESS - TO BUILD ROADS AT DOUBLE THE COST. HE STAFFED HIS ADMINISTRATION WITH HIGHLY PAID MAINLAND AMERICANS.

GOVERNOR ALLEN COMMISSIONED A STUDY ON PUERTO RICO'S SOIL THAT FOUND THE LAND WAS VERY FERTILE AND SUGARCANE TENDED TO HAVE A HIGH YIELD. HE PRESENTED THE REPORT TO PRESIDENT MCKINLEY AND QUIT HIS POSITION IN 1901, LESS THAN A YEAR AFTER HE'D STARTED.



BUT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ISLAND WASN'T OVER. WORKING IN WALL STREET, ALLEN ADDED HIS TROPICAL SUGAR EMPIRE TO THE AMERICAN REFINING COMPANY, ALSO KNOWN AS DOMINO SUGAR.

ALLEN'S FORMER COLLEAGUES IN PUERTO RICO'S COLONIAL GOVERNMENT GRANTED HIM 25% OF ARABLE LAND, PLUS FAVORABLE TAXES AND TARIFFS. HIS COMPANIES OWNED THE INSULAR POSTAL SERVICE, MOST OF THE COASTAL RAILROAD, AND THE SAN JUAN SHIPPING TERMINAL.



THE PROFITS WERE HIGH, BUT THE HUMAN COST WAS HIGHER. THE GOVERNMENT FOCUSED ON THE SUGAR INDUSTRY AND IGNORED SOCIAL PROGRAMS AND EDUCATION. PEOPLE WERE TAXED OR BOUGHT OUT OF THEIR LAND ONLY TO REMAIN AS CANE WORKERS WITH A PITTANCE FOR SALARIES.



THE AMERICAN SUGAR REFINING COMPANY GREW EXPONENTIALLY AND BY 1907 CONTROLLED 98% OF THE SUGAR-PROCESSING BUSINESS IN THE U.S. ALLEN RETIRED TO A LIFE OF LEISURE IN LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS, WHERE HE PAINTED LANDSCAPES AND TENDED THE GARDENS OF HIS HOME.

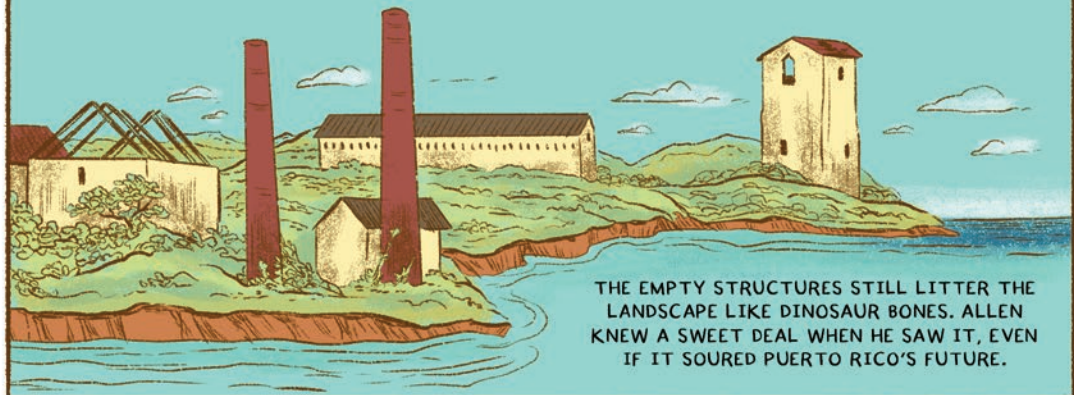


DECLINING SUGAR CONSUMPTION AND THE GREAT DEPRESSION BEGAN A CENTURYLONG DOWNWARD SPIRAL FOR THE ISLAND'S ECONOMY.



THE HORRIBLE WORKING CONDITIONS PROMPTED A WAVE OF LABOR STRIKES IN THE 1930S, AS PRO-INDEPENDENCE NATIONALISTS FOUGHT FOR WORKER RIGHTS.

ONE BY ONE, THE GIANT FACTORIES CLOSED. THE LAST ONE, COLOSO SUGAR CANE REFINERY, WAS SHUTTERED IN 2002.



THE EMPTY STRUCTURES STILL LITTER THE LANDSCAPE LIKE DINOSAUR BONES. ALLEN KNEW A SWEET DEAL WHEN HE SAW IT, EVEN IF IT SOURD PUERTO RICO'S FUTURE.

HEALTH IS OUR GREATEST WEALTH!

Dr. Bronner's Wild Ride to Founding a Soap Empire!

BY: ANDREW GREENSTONE

IN 1912, EMANUEL BRONNER INVENTED "ALL-ONE-GOD," A RELIGION/SELF-IMPROVEMENT PHILOSOPHY.

HIS BIBLE IS CALLED "THE MORAL ABC," AND AIMS TO UNITE MANKIND. IT'S ABOUT 3,000 WORDS, LARGELY INCOMPREHENSIBLE, AND CHANCES ARE YOU HAVE A COPY OF IT IN YOUR HOME IN YOUR BATHROOM OR UNDER YOUR KITCHEN SINK.

BRONNER CAME TO THE U.S. FROM GERMANY IN 1929 AND BUILT SOAP FACTORIES IN THE MIDWEST. HIS PARENTS PERISHED IN THE HOLOCAUST AND SOON AFTER HIS WIFE BECAME ILL AND DIED.

*IN 1944, AS I BURIED MY WIFE IN A PAUPER'S FIELD, I SWORE TO THE GOD WITHIN ME AND WITHIN EVERY LIVING BEING ON THIS PLANET THAT THE MOMENT I HAVE \$10,000 TO PROTECT THREE MOTHERLESS CHILDREN ON THAT FARM IN WISCONSIN I'D BECOME THE SERVANT OF GOD.

AND SO I LEARNED, BEGINNING IN 1944, THAT WHAT CAUSED ALL THE TROUBLE ON THIS EARTH THE PAST 2,000 YEARS IS THE LACK OF RABBIS, THE FAILURE OF RABBIS TO TEACH EVERY TWELVE-YEAR-OLD BOY ON GOD'S SPACESHIP EARTH THE MORAL ABC, WITHOUT WHICH NONE SURVIVE FREE.

*FROM THE DOCUMENTARY 'DR. BRONNER'S MAGIC SOAPBOX,' 2006

DR. BRONNER HIT THE ROAD TO LECTURE, LEAVING HIS CHILDREN WITH STRANGERS OR IN ORPHANAGES. HE SOLD SOAP ON THE SIDE, WITH HIS 13 HOLY TENETS PRINTED ON THE LABEL.

IN 1946, BRONNER WAS ARRESTED FOR SPEAKING WITHOUT A PERMIT AFTER A ROWDY LECTURE.



HE WAS COMMITTED TO A MENTAL HOSPITAL AND GIVEN SHOCK TREATMENT, BUT ESCAPED, FLED TO LOS ANGELES, AND BEGAN MAKING SOAP AGAIN.

IN 1956, HIS CHILDREN JOINED THE BUSINESS. SOON AFTER, BRONNER'S SOAP WAS EMBRACED BY THE BURGEONING HIPPIE MOVEMENT, UNPERTURBED BY THE MANIFESTO ON THE LABEL AND DRAWN TO BRONNER'S FORMULA OF ORGANIC INGREDIENTS.



THE SOAP IS MADE FROM ALL-NATURAL, FAIR TRADE INGREDIENTS. THEIR BOTTLES ARE MADE FROM RECYCLED NON-PETROLEUM MATERIALS, ALL IN LINE WITH BRONNER'S PREACHING.



BY THE TIME OF BRONNER'S DEATH IN 1997, HIS SOAP BUSINESS HAD BECOME AN EMPIRE, FOUND IN CHAIN STORES AND HIPPIE BATHROOMS ALIKE, ALL BUILT ON HIS MISSION TO PREACH THE MESSAGE.



BRONNER RAN HIS COMPANY, "ALL-ONE-GOD-FAITH, INC." AS A TAX-EXEMPT RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION UNTIL 1985, WHEN THE IRS FOUND THEM TO BE NONCOMPLIANT. AFTER PAYING \$1.3 MILLION IN BACK TAXES THEY REORGANIZED AS A FOR-PROFIT COMPANY, NOW RUN BY BRONNER'S GRANDCHILDREN.

THE DRONE WAR IN SOMALIA

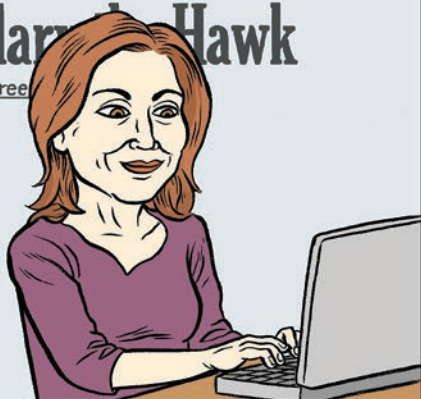
WORDS: SPENCER ACKERMAN

ART: MATT BORS

WE DON'T HEAR MUCH ABOUT DRONE STRIKES SINCE TRUMP TOOK OFFICE. MAYBE THAT'S BECAUSE THEY DON'T FIT A CERTAIN NARRATIVE.

Donald the Dove, Hillary the Hawk

By Maureen



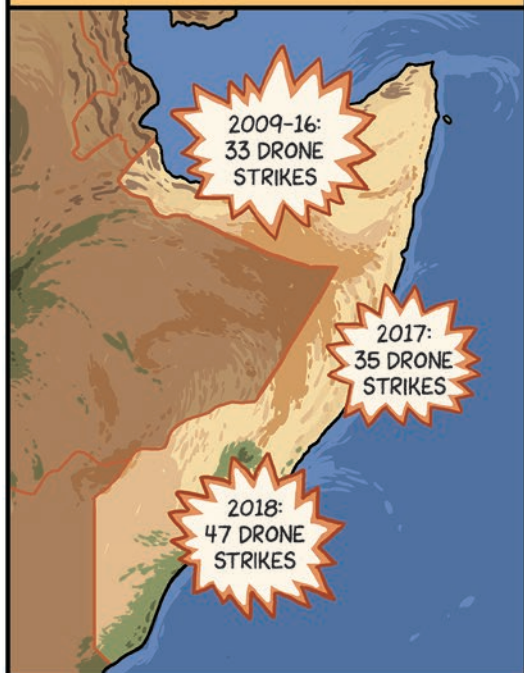
TRUMP, IN HIS FIRST TWO YEARS IN OFFICE, HAS LAUNCHED MORE DRONE STRIKES THAN OBAMA HAD AT THAT POINT IN HIS PRESIDENCY.

OBAMA
2009-10:**238 DRONE STRIKES**TRUMP
2017-18:**253 DRONE STRIKES**

BUT THIS SHOULD HAVE
COME AS NO SURPRISE.

BOMB THE
SHIT OUT
OF 'EM!

NOWHERE HAS THIS ESCALATION BEEN
MORE INTENSE THAN IN SOMALIA.



THE STRIKES INCREASED THERE BECAUSE TRUMP
CHANGED THE RULES. MEET DON BOLDUC.

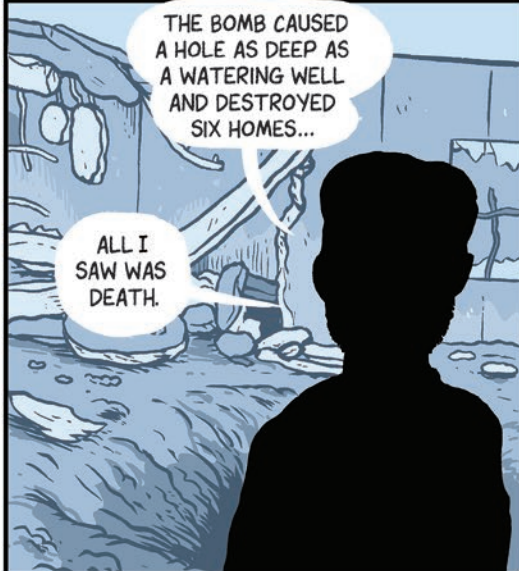


FROM APRIL 2015 TO JUNE 2017, DON, A RETIRED
ARMY ONE-STAR GENERAL, COMMANDED U.S.
SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES IN AFRICA.

THE POINT OF THE STRIKES IS TO WEAKEN AL-SHABAAB, AN EXTREMIST ISLAMIST GROUP. BUT AL-SHABAAB IS ENTRENCHED IN SOMALIA AND CONTROLS RURAL AREAS THROUGHOUT THE CENTER, SOUTH, AND WEST OF THE COUNTRY.



THE DRONE STRIKES WON'T END AL-SHABAAB, BUT SOMALI CIVILIANS ARE ANOTHER STORY. HERE'S WHAT AN ELDER FROM THE SMALL VILLAGE OF ILIMEEY TOLD THE SOMALI HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION ABOUT A DEC. 2017 STRIKE THERE THAT KILLED A 5-YEAR-OLD CHILD:

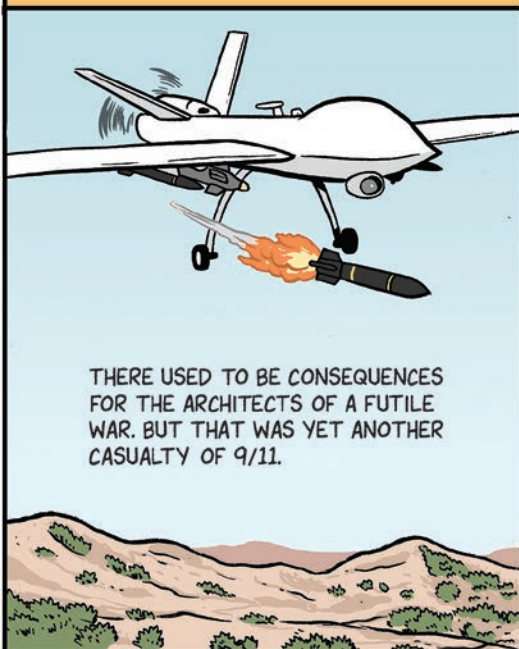


THE U.S. HAS BEEN FIGHTING IN SOMALIA SINCE 2006, MOSTLY THROUGH PROXIES. WASHINGTON'S SHADOW WAR IS TURNING 13 YEARS OLD. OCCASIONALLY A GENERAL ISSUES AN EMPTY BOAST.



THAT WAS DAVID RODRIGUEZ, THEN IN CHARGE OF U.S. AFRICA COMMAND, OVER FIVE YEARS AGO.

AND IT'S STILL ESCALATING. ON THE 38TH DAY OF 2019, THE LATEST COMMANDER IN SOMALIA SAID HE HAD LAUNCHED 12 STRIKES SO FAR.



THE GUNA REVOLUTION

by NERO

ON FEBRUARY 25TH, 1925,
A LARGE GROUP OF INDIGENOUS
REVOLUTIONARIES ATTACKED A
POLICE OUTPOST IN USTUPO, PANAMA.
THEY KILLED 27 PEOPLE.

LED BY CHIEF NELE KANTULE,
THESE INSURGENTS WERE
MEMBERS OF THE GUNA TRIBE—
ONE OF THE LARGEST GROUPS OF
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN PANAMA

THE GUNA HAD DECLARED
THEIR INDEPENDENCE
ONLY TEN DAYS PRIOR,

AFTER 22 YEARS OF
STATE-SPONSORED
ETHNOCIDE.

RELIGIOUS MISSIONARIES
FORBADE ALL ALCOHOL,
WHICH WAS NECESSARY FOR
RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES.

OPPORTUNISTS LOOTED
GUNA LAND FOR RICHES.

GOLD

SEA
TURTLES

RUBBER

AND THE GOVERNMENT BANNED
THE GUNA'S LANGUAGE,
TRADITIONS, AND CLOTHING.

SULI
SULI
SULI

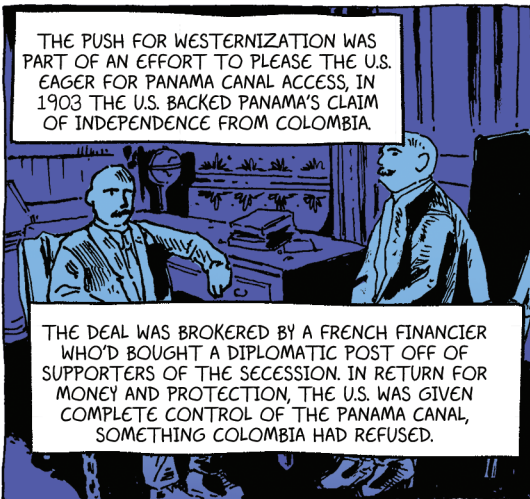
BY 1919, PRESIDENT PORRAS
HAD BANNED THE WEARING OF
ANY INDIVIDUAL COMPONENT
OF TRADITIONAL CLOTHING.

EVERYTHING FROM JEWELRY TO
LEG BINDINGS TO MOLAS—
COLORFUL HANDMADE WRAPS—
WAS TO BE REPLACED WITH
"WESTERN"-STYLE CLOTHING.

WHILE SOME VILLAGES HAD AN
EASY TIME WITH THIS DUE TO
EARLY MISSIONARY INFLUENCE,

MOST REFUSED.

THE PUSH FOR WESTERNIZATION WAS PART OF AN EFFORT TO PLEASE THE U.S. EAGER FOR PANAMA CANAL ACCESS. IN 1903 THE U.S. BACKED PANAMA'S CLAIM OF INDEPENDENCE FROM COLOMBIA.



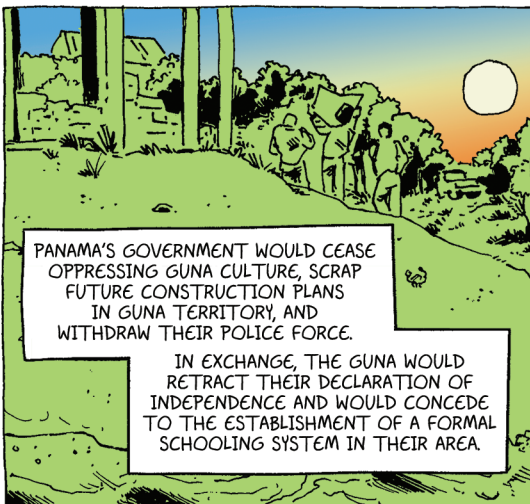
THE DEAL WAS BROKERED BY A FRENCH FINANCIER WHO'D BOUGHT A DIPLOMATIC POST OFF OF SUPPORTERS OF THE SECESSION. IN RETURN FOR MONEY AND PROTECTION, THE U.S. WAS GIVEN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE PANAMA CANAL, SOMETHING COLOMBIA HAD REFUSED.

PERHAPS REMEMBERING THEIR SHARED EARLY HISTORY, MANY GUNA HAD ALLIED THEMSELVES WITH COLOMBIA AND OPPOSED PANAMA'S SECESSION.



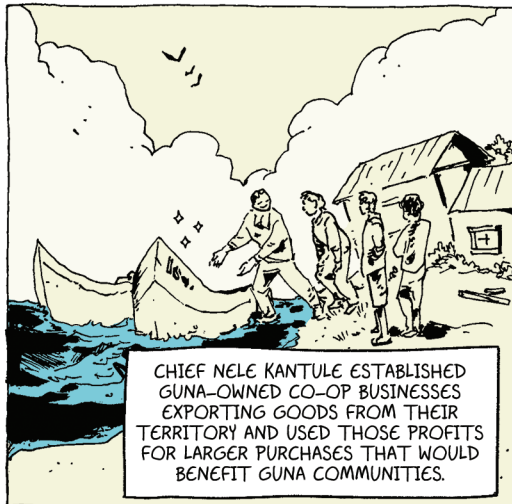
THE REVOLUTION OF 1925 ONLY LASTED ONE WEEK. ON MARCH 4TH, GUNA LEADERS SIGNED A PEACE TREATY WITH THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT.

PANAMA'S GOVERNMENT WOULD CEASE OPPRESSING GUNA CULTURE, SCRAP FUTURE CONSTRUCTION PLANS IN GUNA TERRITORY, AND WITHDRAW THEIR POLICE FORCE.



IN EXCHANGE, THE GUNA WOULD RETRACT THEIR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND WOULD CONCEDE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FORMAL SCHOOLING SYSTEM IN THEIR AREA.

CHIEF NELE KANTULE ESTABLISHED GUNA-OWNED CO-OP BUSINESSES EXPORTING GOODS FROM THEIR TERRITORY AND USED THOSE PROFITS FOR LARGER PURCHASES THAT WOULD BENEFIT GUNA COMMUNITIES.

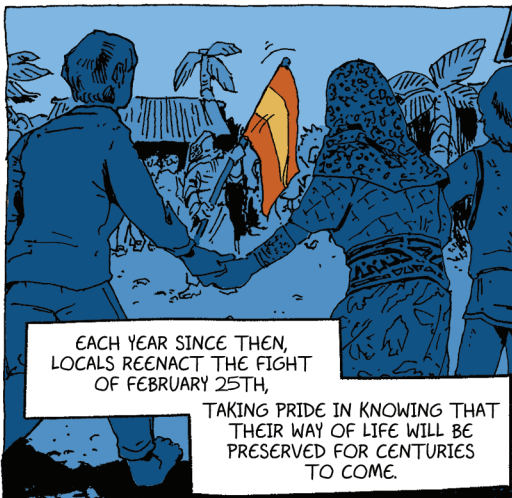


GUNA PEOPLE BEGAN TO SEE THEIR OWN TRADITIONS IN A MORE REBELLIOUS LIGHT. MOST CLOTHING, ESPECIALLY MOLAS (NOW ONE OF THEIR BIGGEST EXPORTS), BECAME SYMBOLS OF THEIR SUCCESSFUL INSURGENCY.



EACH YEAR SINCE THEN, LOCALS REENACT THE FIGHT OF FEBRUARY 25TH,

TAKING PRIDE IN KNOWING THAT THEIR WAY OF LIFE WILL BE PRESERVED FOR CENTURIES TO COME.





THE PARTHENON MARBLES
Greece

Stolen 1801-1812

"Dull is the eye that will not weep to see / Thy walls defaced, thy mouldering shrines removed /
By British hands, which it had best behaved / To guard those relics ne'er to be restored."

- Lord Byron, "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage"

THE RESPONSE

Each issue we ask four cartoonists one question.

*For this issue we asked artists from around the world
how they are combating the effects of empire.*

HOW DO YOU
TRY TO
DECOLONIZE
YOUR LIFE?



Robyn
Smith

Jamaica's famed electric dancehall culture is often characterized as vulgar – ie, it doesn't conform to European standards of sophistication.



Of course I adhered to these beliefs growing up.



Vulgar is the worst thing a "young lady" could be.

But once during a class party, when we had a few unsupervised minutes, someone put on "Dutty Wine" and I joined in.



I felt the freedom that came with accepting this "vulgar" part of my heritage.

Bubble yuh body fi di uptop boss!



Now I love to party, but more importantly, I love being part of a late-night session's disruptive cultural force.

A British judge for a reality cooking competition once made an asinine comment on a Malaysian participant's dish before sending them home in the very same episode.



I, along with many others, was not impressed.

#RENDANGGATE



To the casual observer, the disproportionate backlash and online furor from Southeast Asian communities to a perceived minor error about our food may seem baffling...



...But the filters that color our vision are different.

In a world where most still subconsciously gravitate towards stories filtered through familiar lenses, I've learned to speak up when it comes to my country's heritage—food and beyond.



Niccolo Pizarro

AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOLS LIKE TO DOWNPLAY OR SKIP WHOLE PARTS OF U.S. HISTORY, WHICH IS WHY, AT 17, I LEARNED THIS LIFE-CHANGING FACT FROM WIKIPEDIA INSTEAD:

AMERICA COLONIZED THE PHILIPPINES?!



IN 1898, FILIPINO REBELS AND U.S. FORCES DEFEATED THE SPANISH EMPIRE, ENDING BOTH THE PHILIPPINE REVOLUTION AND SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR. BUT IN SECRET, SPAIN CEDED "OWNERSHIP" OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE U.S., A BETRAYAL THAT LED TO THE PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR AND A NEW OCCUPATION.

IT WAS HERE THAT THE U.S. MILITARY BEGAN USING **WATERBOARDING** FOR "INTERROGATIONS."



MY PARENTS CONFIRMED THESE EVENTS AND AS I LEARNED MORE, I GREW FRUSTRATED AT HOW PEOPLE BELIEVED AMERICA WAS "EXCEPTIONAL."

GOD, I CAN'T THINK OF A TIME WE'VE BEEN MORE DIVIDED THAN **NOW**.

UMMM,
THE CIVIL WAR?!

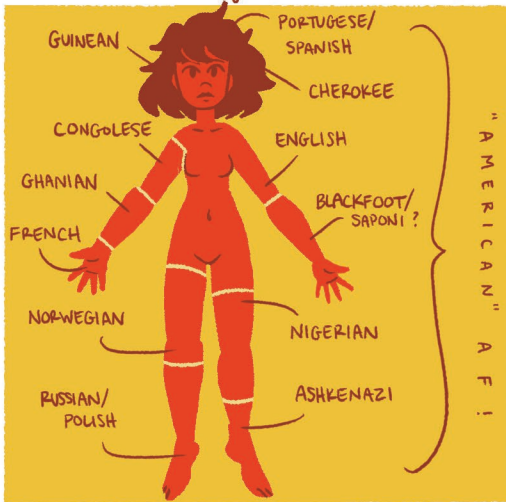


MAYBE, LIKE ME, SOME OF THEM WEREN'T TAUGHT THE WHOLE STORY. SO I TRY TO MAKE COMICS ON OVERLOOKED TOPICS BECAUSE, BASED ON THE QUESTIONS I'M STILL ASKED...

...HIGH SCHOOLS HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY **BETTER!**



A lot of people assume I'm from a distant and exotic land, but when asked, I explain that my blood tells the story of America itself.



As I grew up and learned more about my history (self-study, of course) I couldn't comprehend how my family could practice Christianity.



These days I am beginning to understand what it took (and still takes) to cope.



And I'm proud that my family has carried traditions from precolonial times to today.

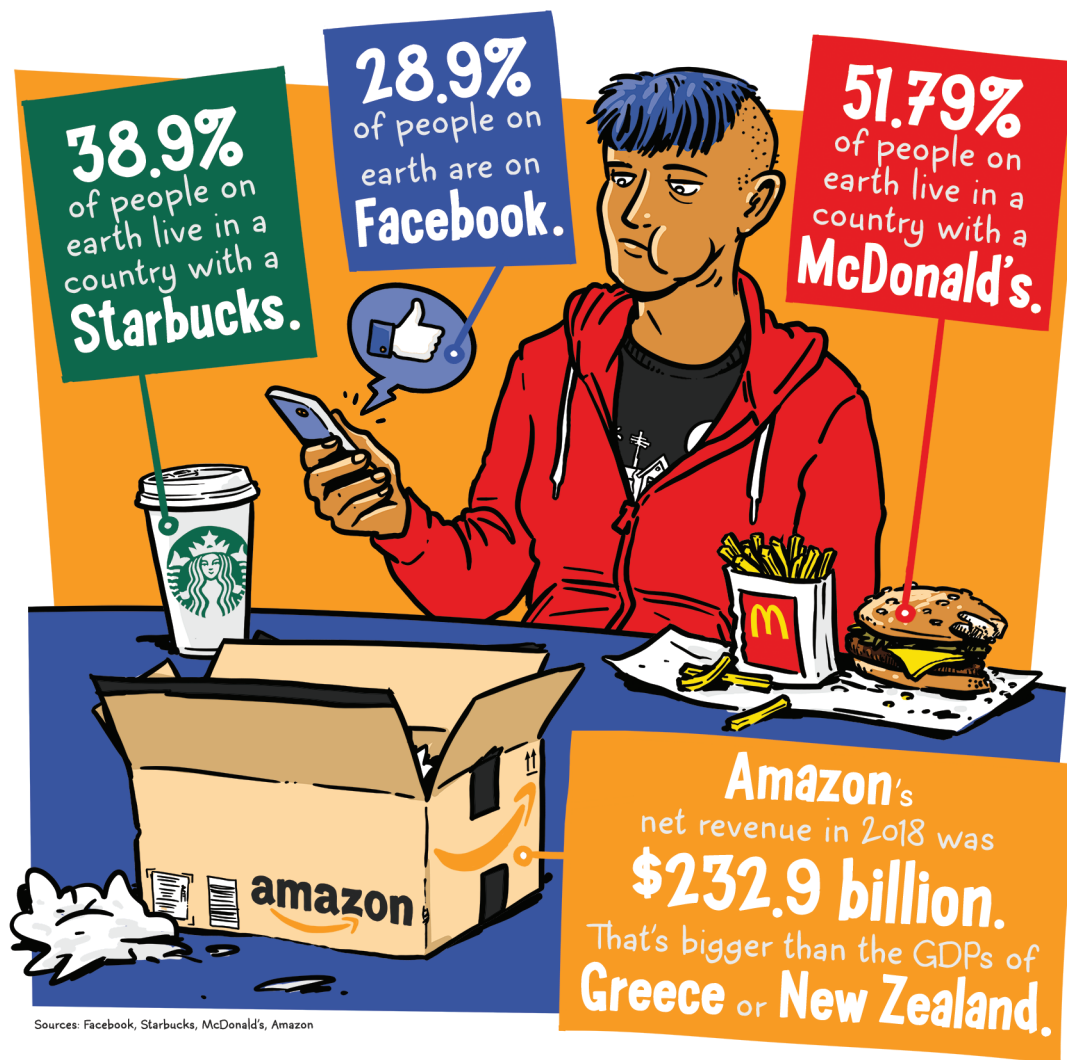


Though I've personally traded in the symbol of the cross for the sankofa, I try to keep in mind that it's all intertwined anyway.

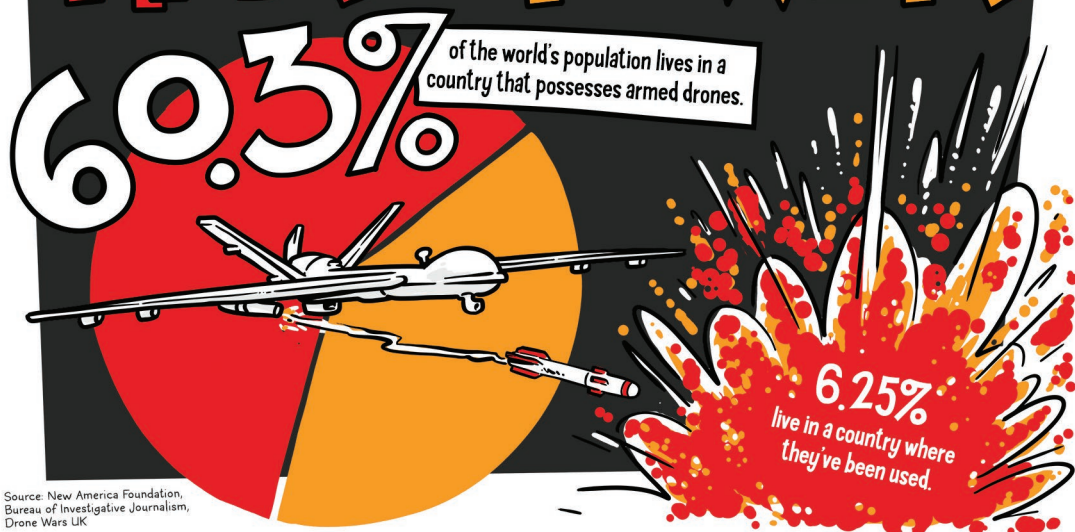
The Nib Bureau of Statistics

Global domination, drones, Bollywood, and McDonald's.

By Andy Warner



HARD POWER



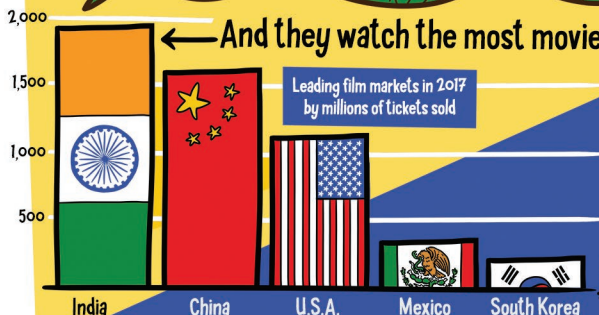
SOFT POWER

INDIA produces the most films in the world, with an annual output of

Source: Film Federation of India, Statista, Motion Picture Association of America

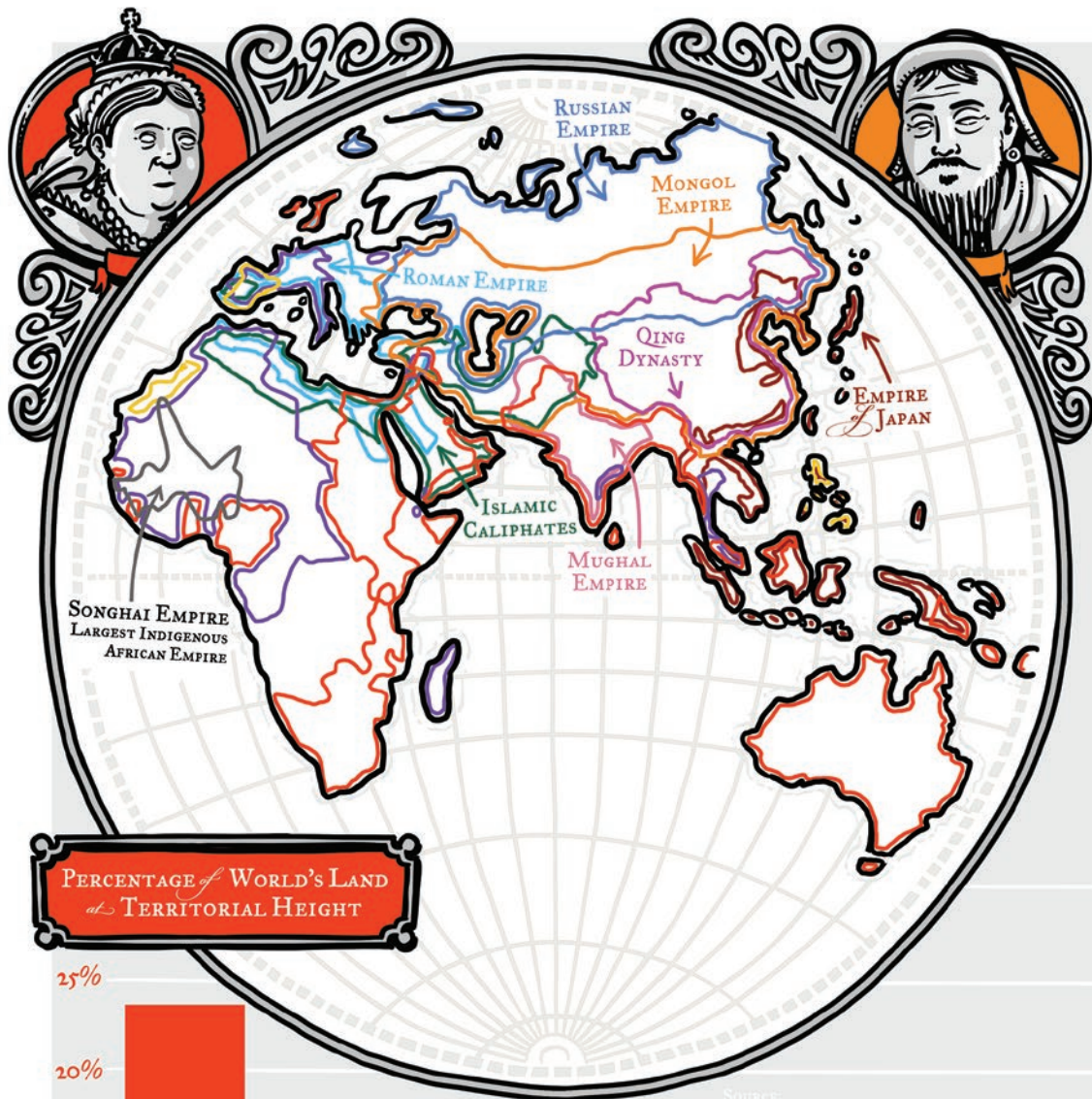


← And they watch the most movies...

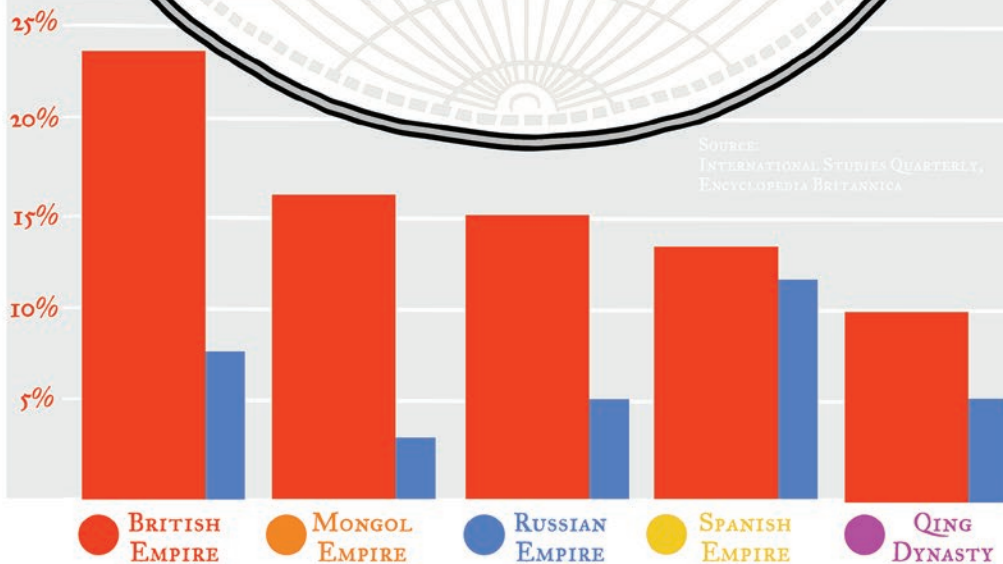


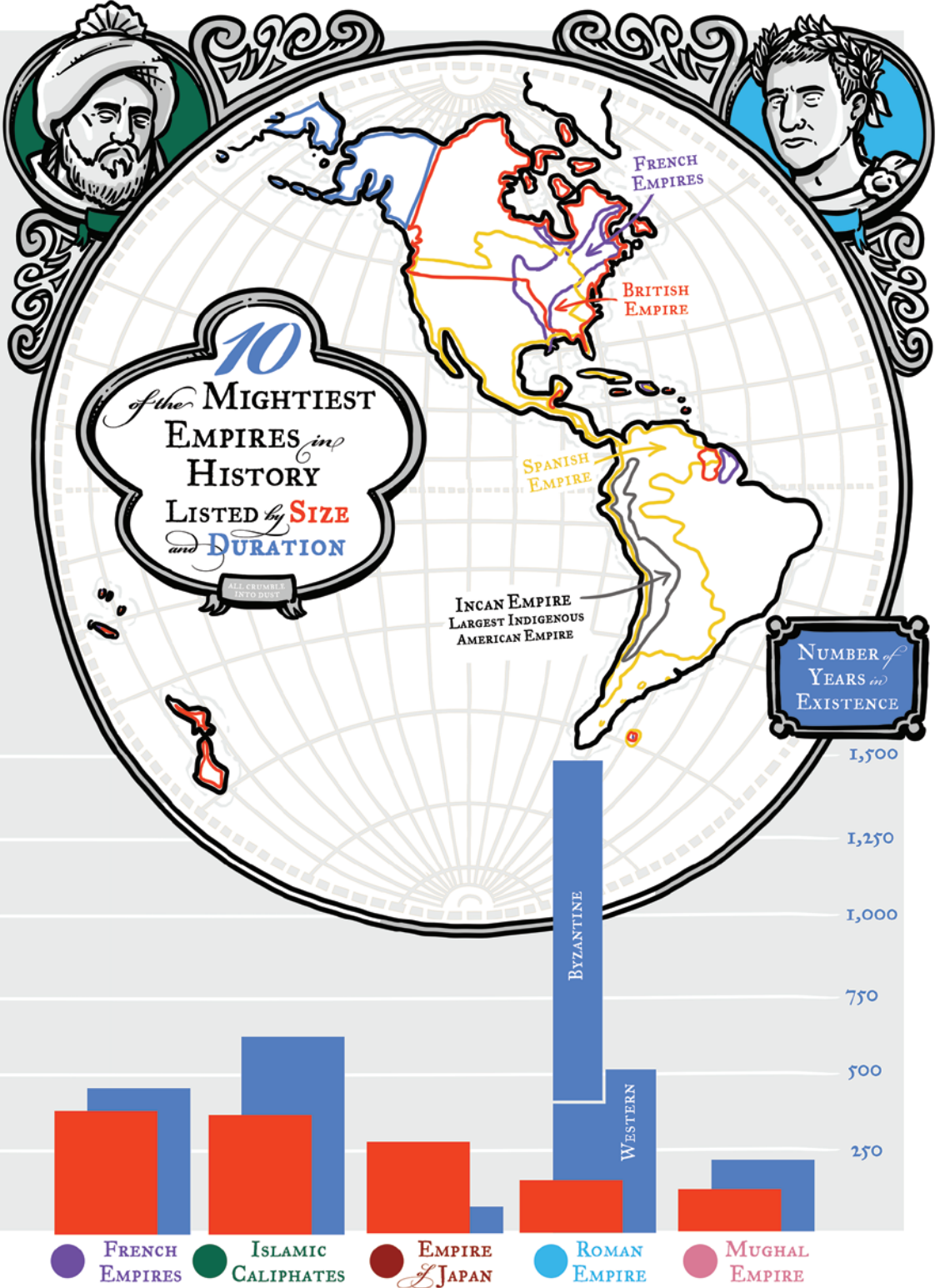
...but the American domestic box office still makes the most money.





PERCENTAGE of WORLD'S LAND
at TERRITORIAL HEIGHT

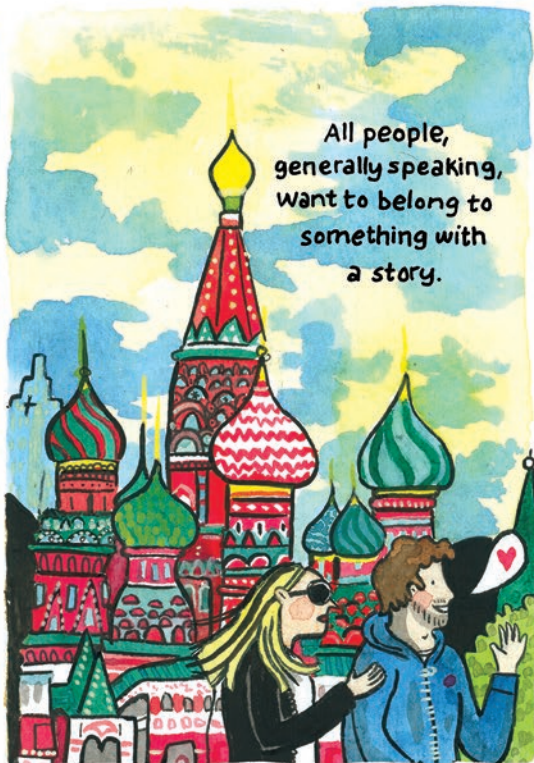




The Nib Interview

Masha Gessen, *New Yorker* staff writer and author of *The Future Is History: How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia*, talked to Eleri Harris about the Russian empire.



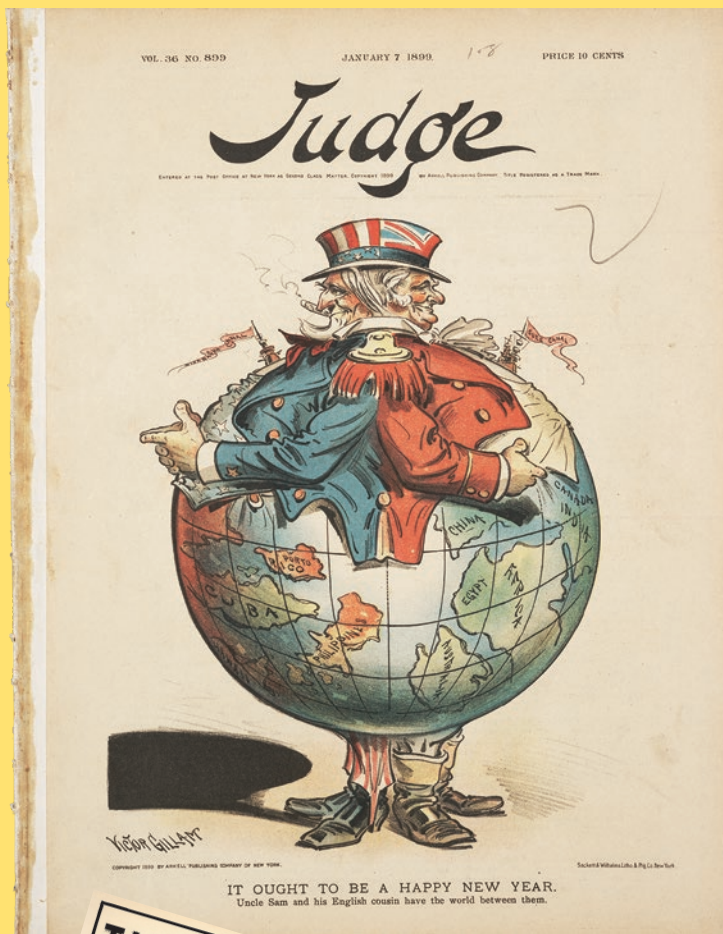


American Expansion

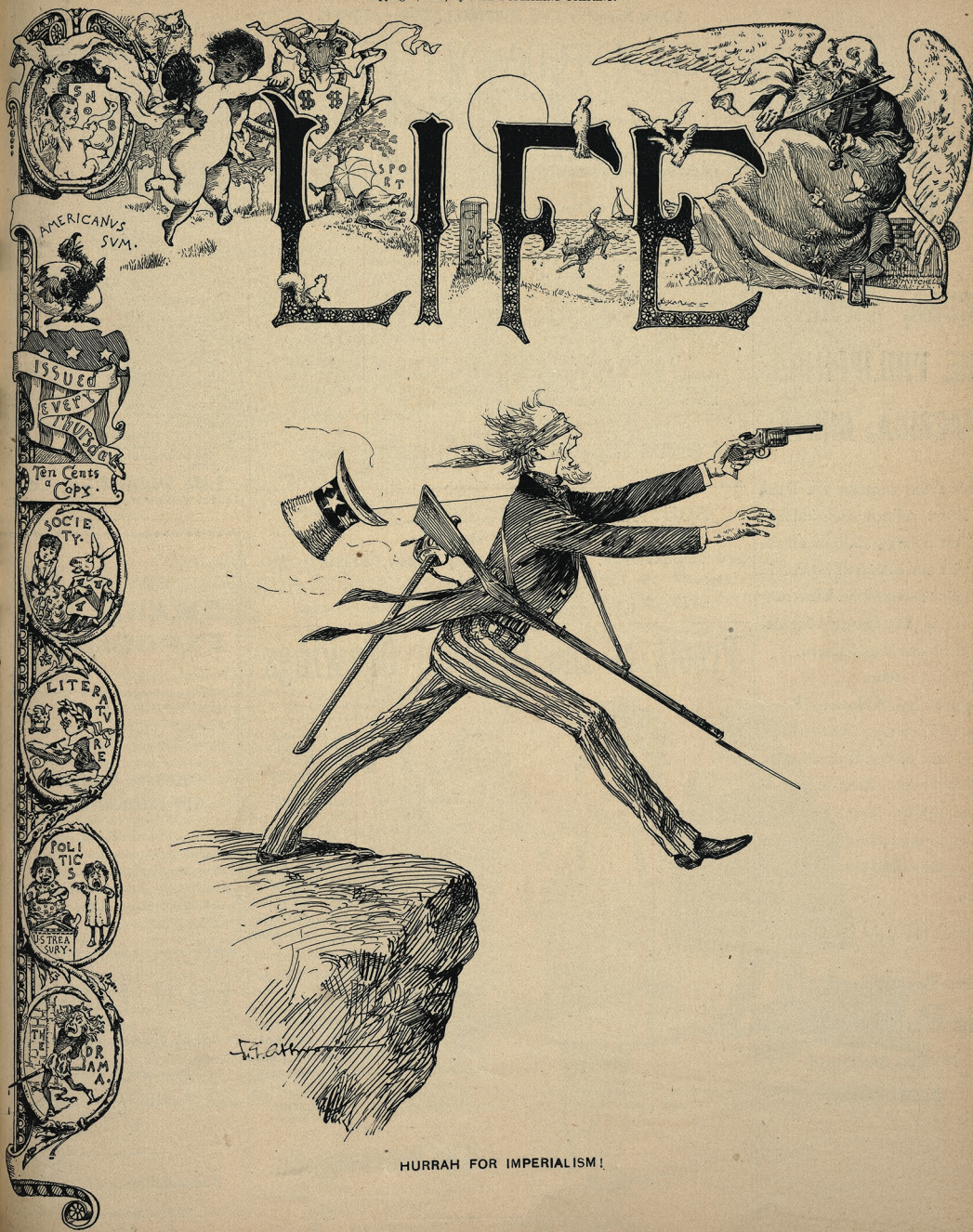
Despite previous claims to the contrary in the name of democracy, freedom, and self-government, in 1898 the United States firmly established itself as an imperialist power by annexing the colonies of Guam, Hawaii, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico, leading to the Spanish-American War. Although some citizens viewed this as an extension of “manifest destiny,” Francis Gilbert Attwood’s cartoon “Hurrah for Imperialism!,” published in *Life* magazine on June 16, 1898, suggests the risks associated with U.S. expansion: A smiling Uncle Sam blindly and violently marches forward toward conquest—and directly off a cliff. Frederick Victor Gillam’s January 7, 1899, cartoon for *Judge* magazine, “It Ought to Be a Happy New Year,” highlights the U.S.’s newfound position alongside the British Empire, both ruling with economic authority over a great majority of the world and in essence consuming the globe.

Caitlin McGurk

Associate curator and assistant professor,
Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum,
The Ohio State University



Entered at the New York Post Office as Second-Class Mail Matter.
Copyright, 1898, by LIFE PUBLISHING COMPANY.





THE GWEAGAL SHIELD
Australia

Stolen 1770

“The shield is the symbol of our resistance. It proves that the notion of terra nullius is wrong. It could be the start of many indigenous peoples around the world claiming back their history.”

- Rodney Kelly, descendent of the Gweagal shield's owner

FEATURES



America IN DECAY

by Andy Warner & Ellen T. Crenshaw

In 2017, the rains returned to California, breaking the back of a six-year drought. Through January and February it rained...



A white car is shown from a rear three-quarter view, partially submerged in floodwater. The water is dark blue with ripples. The car's rear lights are illuminated, casting a yellow glow on the water. In the background, there are green bushes and a house with a grey tiled roof. A speech bubble from the car says "...and rained..." and another speech bubble from the background says "...and rained...".

...and rained...

...and rained.



Fearing a collapse that would release a 30-foot wall of roaring water, 188,000 people in downstream communities were evacuated.



One of the rare things that people agree on across the political spectrum is that American infrastructure is crumbling.



In his 2016 acceptance speech, he declared that:

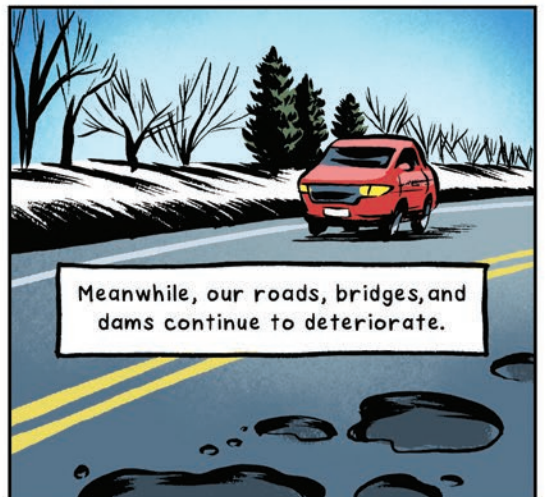
We're going to rebuild our infrastructure, which will become, by the way, second to none. And we will put millions of our people to work as we rebuild it.



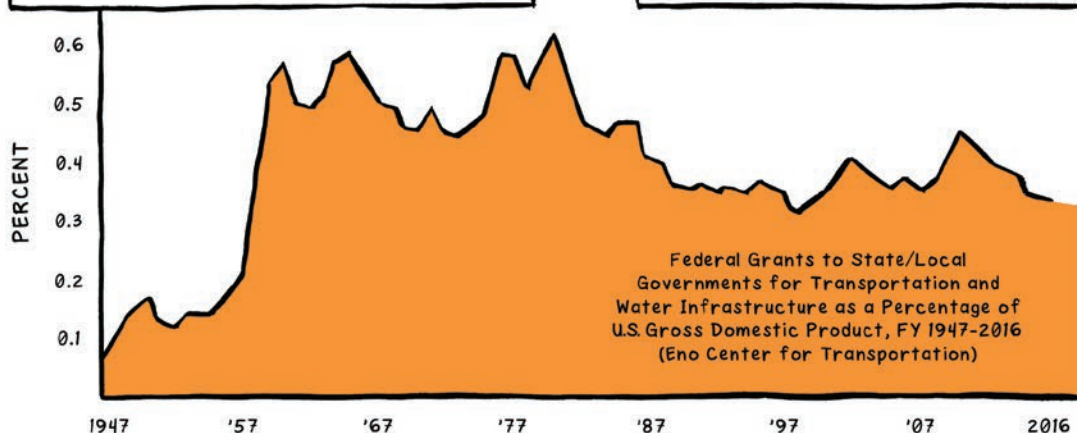
What are we waiting for? There's work to be done. There are workers who are ready to do it.*



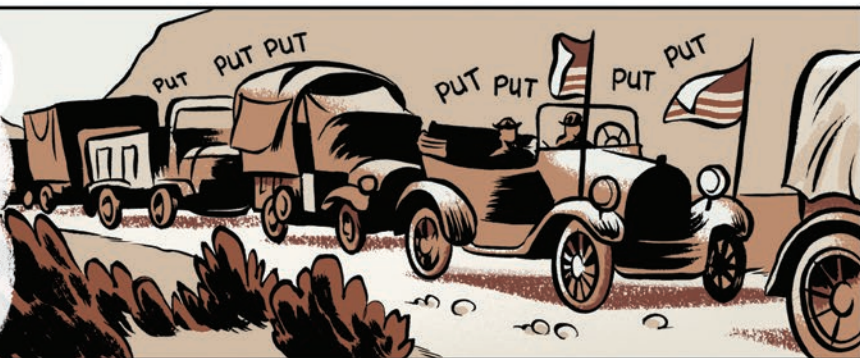
Obama, of course, promised the same thing. Shovel-ready projects, providing good jobs rebuilding America.



But U.S. spending on infrastructure as a percent of GDP is way down from its highs in the 1950s through 1970s, when the highways and waterways that knit the American empire together were built.



The pace of change in those years was astonishing. In 1919, when Dwight Eisenhower first drove across America by car, it took him 62 days.



In 1956, as president, he signed the law mandating the creation of the interstate system, which brought the transcontinental car trip down to four or five days.

Economists estimate that the highway system was responsible for almost a third of the growth in American productivity in its first few years.

That building boom created modern America, but systems like the power grids it put in place were often only meant to last 50 years.

Yet, 70 years later, we still haven't gotten around to updating them.



In 2016, the ASCE flagged 15,500 high-hazard dams. The Oroville Dam was one of them.



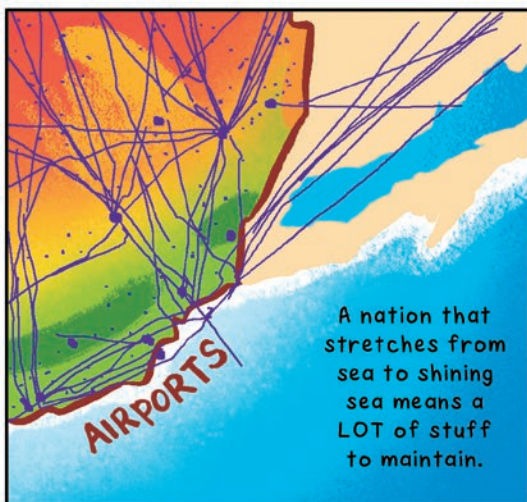
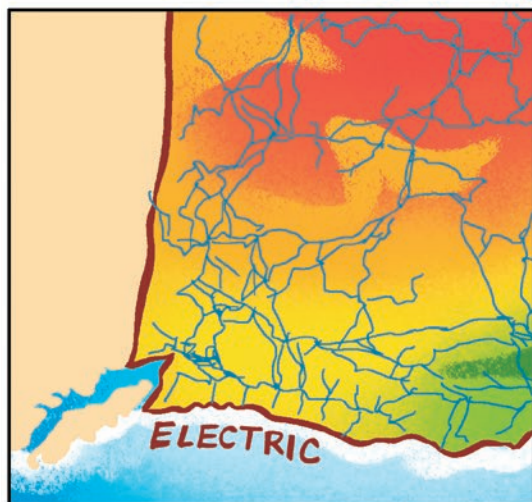
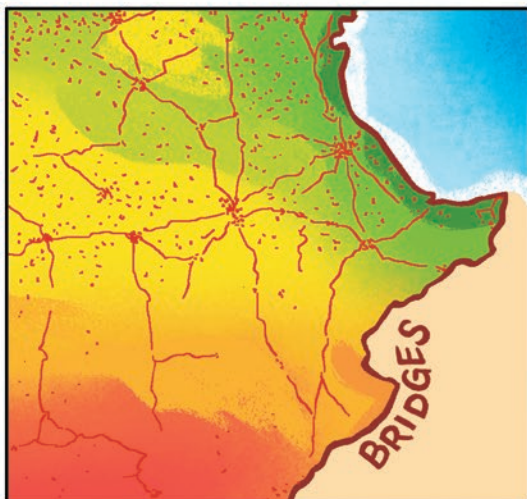
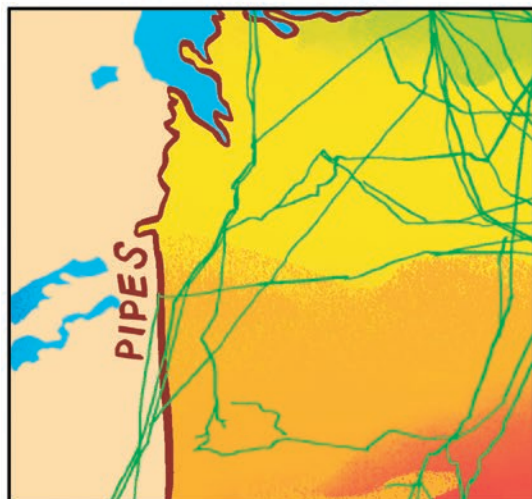
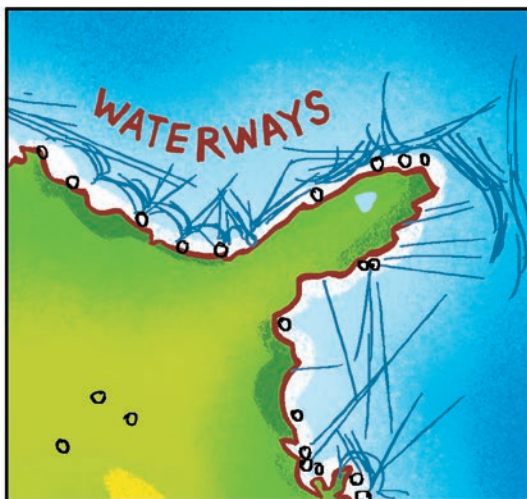
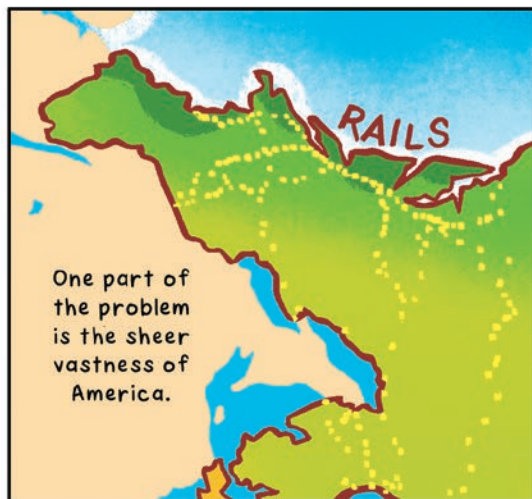
A third of urban roads in the U.S. are in a "poor condition" according to the ASCE.



And because the U.S. population has increased so much since our infrastructure was built, a lot of it is at, or over, capacity.



The ASCE estimates that 24 out of the top 30 airports in the U.S. could soon hit what used to be Thanksgiving peak-traffic volume once a week.



Campaign promises and bipartisan appeal notwithstanding, the Trump administration took its time getting to infrastructure.

npr
June 9, 2017

POLITICO

January 24, 2018

THE HILL
January 13, 2017

Trump's infrastructure plan: What we know



Trump's Infrastructure Plan Could Still Use More Planning

Trump could reveal long-promised infrastructure plan within two weeks



The announcement and then delay of "infrastructure week" happened so many times that it became an in-joke in the political press.

But what was finally unveiled in February 2017 was profoundly inadequate. Trump called it a \$1.5 trillion plan, but actually allocated only a \$200 billion outlay from the federal government, with the rest of the \$1.3 trillion theoretically coming from states and private investment.



Leery of already swollen deficits from their recently passed tax cuts, the Republican-controlled Congress stonewalled the proposal anyway.

But even in the unlikely event that Trump manages to get an infrastructure plan through Congress, his track record on the issue so far is deeply problematic and marked by his trademark personal vindictiveness.



A \$30 billion plan to modernize the bridge and tunnel system was thrown into doubt when Trump abruptly moved to cancel the project, reportedly to get revenge on New York Senator and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer.



*Schumer, 2018

This project is vital to 50 million people in the Northeast Corridor and to our American economy, and politics shouldn't get in the way.*

The move was seen as a partisan swipe at California's high-speed rail plans, a pet project of California's Democratic Governor (and Trump foe) Jerry Brown, carried out at the behest of the state's Republican Party.



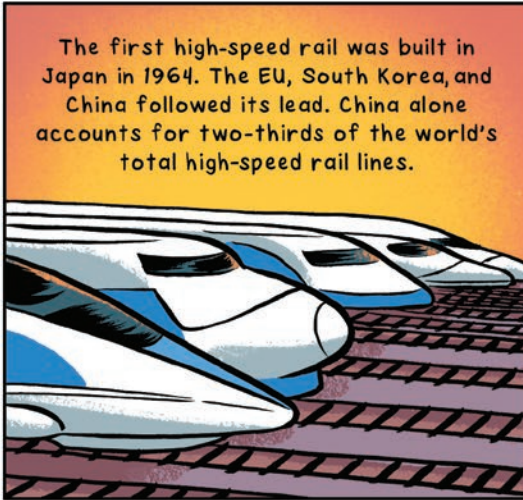
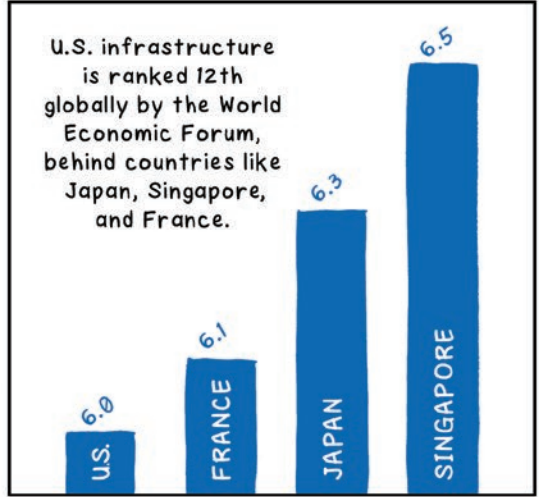
The tunnels under the Hudson River that connect New Jersey and New York are the most heavily used passenger rail line in the country. They're also over 100 years old, and engineers warn that they will fail within a decade.



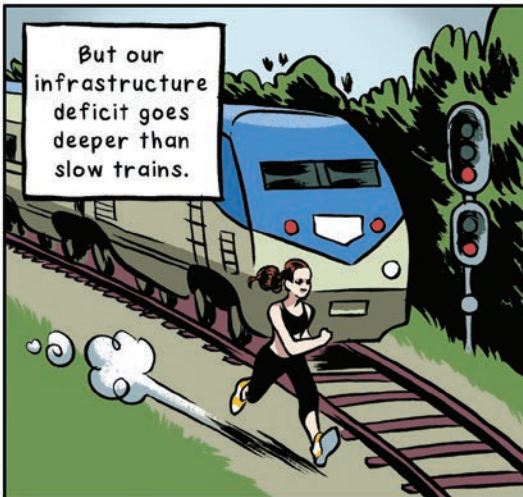
It's part of a pattern. Just as it was about to begin, the planned electrification of Caltrain, the commuter rail that links Silicon Valley to San Francisco, was delayed for months by Trump's secretary of transportation, Elaine Chao.



A broader, nationwide plan could just end up granting a petulant man more leverage to hold over the heads of his personal enemies.



America lags far behind—only in its Northeast Corridor can trains reach speeds of 160 mph, the bottom of what's considered high speed, and a project in California is years behind schedule, hugely over budget, and constantly threatened with termination.



Internet access—the lifeblood of our modern economy—is a good example. In South Korea, it's on average four times faster than in America.

So what's the hold up?

Why don't we just FIX things?

It's not like there isn't a big financial return on investment.

The main issue is that big infrastructure costs big money, and with the rise of movement conservatism, one of two political parties in America became allergic to deficits (except for tax cuts and wars).



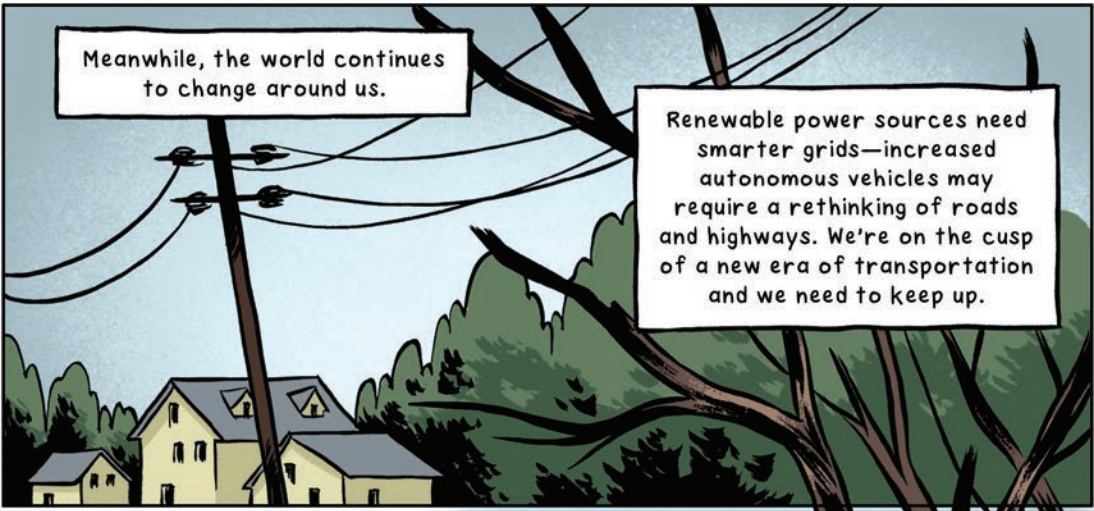
And politics runs both ways—what incentive is there for Democrats to give Trump a win by passing his meager infrastructure plan if Republicans won't join them?

It doesn't help that simple upkeep of existing infrastructure is not particularly inspiring.



Plus, it's easy to write off warnings as hyperbole until disaster actually strikes. The levee breach after Katrina and the flooding from Superstorm Sandy had both been predicted, modeled, and warned about by scientists and engineers well in advance.



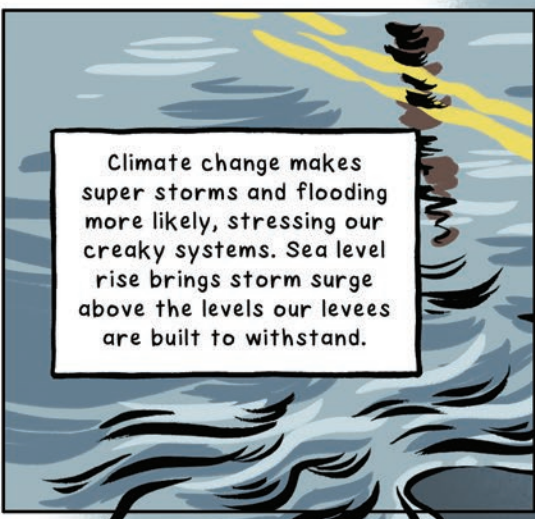


Meanwhile, the world continues to change around us.

Renewable power sources need smarter grids—increased autonomous vehicles may require a rethinking of roads and highways. We're on the cusp of a new era of transportation and we need to keep up.



We're also on the cusp of a new era of strain on what we do have.



Climate change makes super storms and flooding more likely, stressing our creaky systems. Sea level rise brings storm surge above the levels our levees are built to withstand.

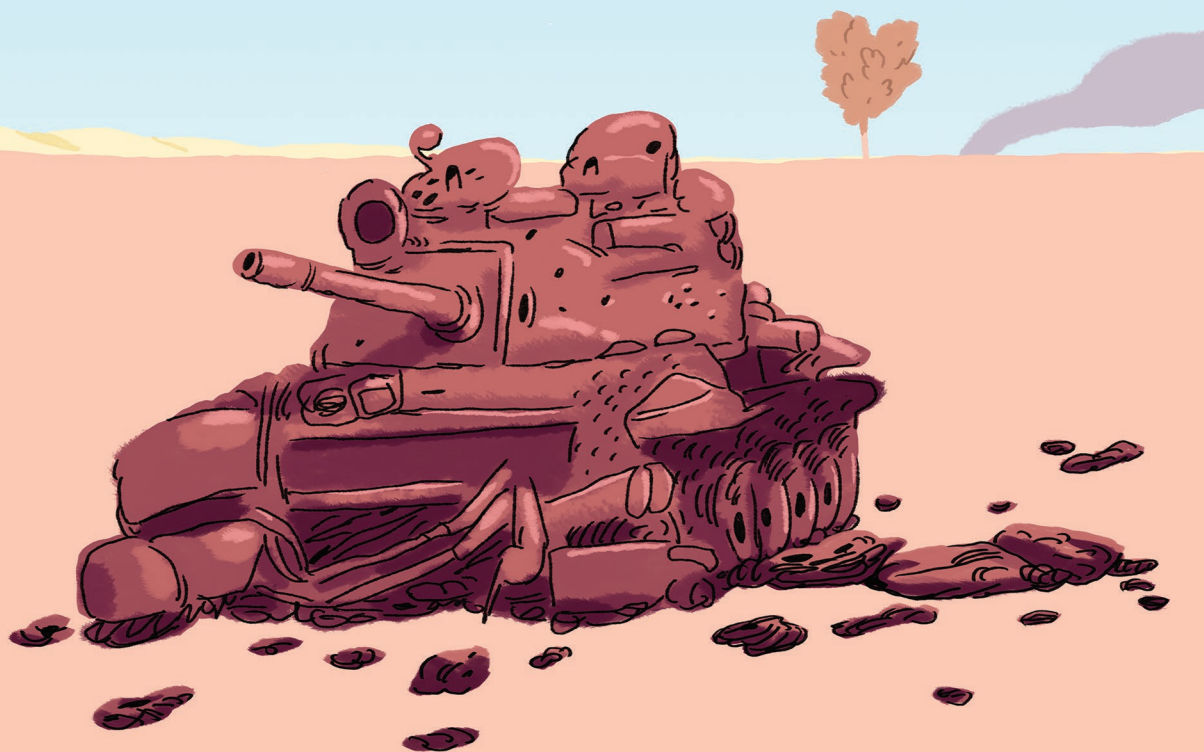


If we do not act, and act soon, next time the flood will come.

BLACK R. HIGHWAY

BY HUSSEIN ADIL

FEBRUARY 26TH, 1991. TWO DAYS BEFORE
THE END OF THE FIRST GULF WAR.



AIN ON THE OF DEATH



AFTER A SERIES OF DEFEATS AT THE HANDS OF THE AMERICAN-LED COALITION, THE IRAQI ARMY WAS HASTILY WITHDRAWING FROM KUWAIT,

ADIL DAWOOD, AN IRAQI PRIVATE FROM NASIRIYAH, WAS AMONG THE LINES OF RETREATING TANKS, ARMORED VEHICLES, BUSES, AND CIVILIAN CARS.

MY NAME IS ADIL,



I WAS 25 YEARS OLD WHEN
THE WAR BROKE OUT,



I'D PLANNED TO ENROLL
AS A STUDENT IN THE
FINE ARTS INSTITUTE...



...BUT INSTEAD I WAS
DRAFTED INTO THE ARMY,

WAR STOLE HALF MY LIFE,



WAR DREAMS STILL
PLAY IN MY HEAD,



I HAD TO ABANDON MY PAINTING SUPPLIES AT THE CAMP WHEN WE LEFT.

THOSE DRAWINGS EXIST NOW ONLY IN MY MEMORY.

OUR BATTALION OFFICER WAS HYSTERICALLY JUMPING, SCREAMING, AND SEARCHING FOR SHELTER,

YOU'RE ALL CRAZY!
I WON'T GO WITH YOU,
I'LL STAY HERE!

WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE IF WE LEAVE THE CAMP!

WE CARRIED THE OFFICER OUT AND PUSHED HIM INTO THE FRONT SEAT OF THE CAR.

LEAVE ME
HERE!

IT WAS ONE IN THE MORNING
WHEN WE LEFT THE CAMP,



I SAT IN THE BED OF THE TRUCK,
TO PROTECT MYSELF IF WE
TURNED OVER, I PUSHED MY BODY
INTO THE BAGS OF STUFF THAT
WE'D BROUGHT,



AFTER AN HOUR AND A HALF,
WE REACHED HIGHWAY 80.

IT WAS TERRIBLE.



A LINE OF MILITARY VEHICLES
HEADING TO THE IRAQI BORDER.



I FELT SAD AND BROKEN,
BUT NOT BECAUSE WE
WERE LOSING THE WAR.

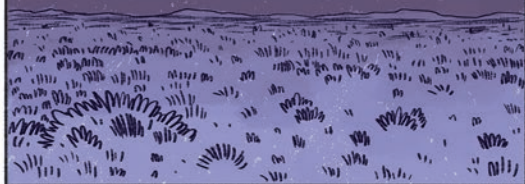


IT WAS BECAUSE I'D FOUGHT
IN THE WAR, AND I'D BEEN
FORCED TO DO SO.

ANYONE WHO REFUSED TO
BE DRAFTED WOULD BE
SUBJECTED TO THE
MOST SEVERE PENALTIES.



ALL THE SOLDIERS OF THE
WORLD ARE VICTIMS OF THE
WHIMS OF THEIR SUPERIORS
AND THEIR LEADERS.



AT 3AM, THE BOMBING BEGAN.



THERE WERE SEVEN AIR RAIDS BY
THE AMERICAN PLANES, BOMBING
THE IRAQI VEHICLES AS THEY FLED.



ON THE EIGHTH RAID, A MISSILE HIT THE VEHICLE IN FRONT OF US.



THE BAGS OF STUFF THAT I'D PUSHED MY BODY INTO SAVED ME FROM THE IMPACT.



ALL SURVIVORS FLED INTO THE DESERT.



IT WAS A HORRIBLE SCENE,
CORPSES AND BURNT
VEHICLES LITTERED THE ROAD.



WE HAD TO WALK
BESIDE THE HIGHWAY.

THE BORDER WAS ABOUT
FOUR DAYS BY FOOT.



ONLY ONE OTHER SOLDIER FROM
MY BATTALION SURVIVED,
HIS NAME WAS ABED,



HE WAS 52 YEARS OLD AND
WOUNDED, I HAD TO HOLD HIM,



AFTER TWO DAYS OF
WALKING, IT RAINED,



I REMEMBER THAT DAY CLEARLY,
BECAUSE I'D NEVER SEEN RAIN
LIKE THAT BEFORE.





IT WAS BLACK RAIN.



BLACK RAIN COVERED MY FACE,

AND THE FACES OF
THE OTHER SOLDIERS.



IT HAD MIXED WITH THE SMOKE
FROM THE KUWAITI OIL FIELDS
THAT SADDAM HAD LIT ON FIRE,

WE WERE THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS. AT ONE POINT WE PAUSED TO REST, ONLY ONE DAY FROM THE IRAQI BORDER.



I FELT PEACE IN THAT MOMENT.



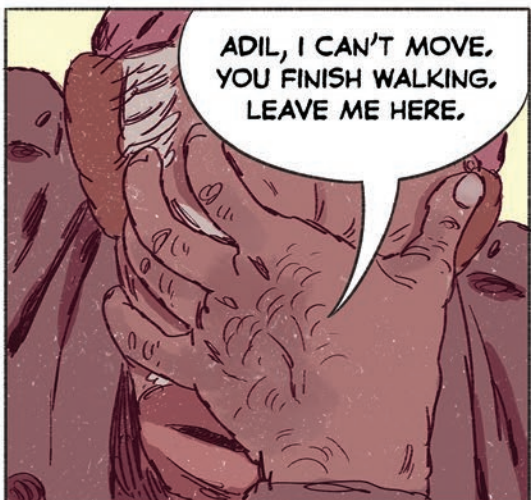
IT WAS LIKE WE WERE IN ANOTHER WORLD, FILLED WITH ENDLESS SOLDIERS.



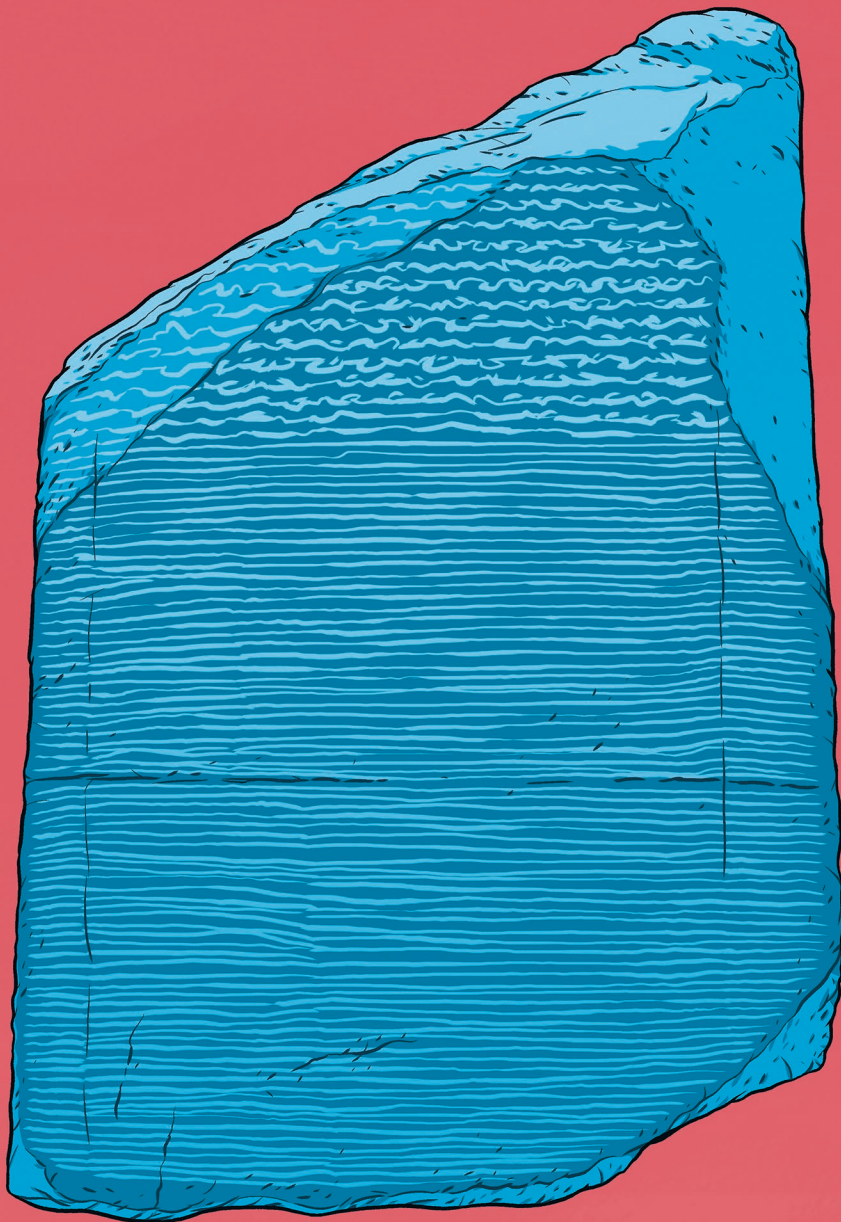
AS WE ALL STARTED TO GET UP TO FINISH OUR JOURNEY, ABED REFUSED TO WALK.



ADIL, I CAN'T MOVE, YOU FINISH WALKING, LEAVE ME HERE.







THE ROSETTA STONE
Egypt

Stolen 1801

"The idea that your national treasure would be in the museum of another country is something that as British people we would find absolutely impossible to get our heads around."

- David Olusoga, historian



VIDEO

BY VENT

EMPIRE

In 2004 three Paypal employees lamented the lack of Super Bowl nip-slip videos on the internet. A year later they registered the domain youtube.com and changed the internet forever.



Before 2005, video was spread all over the internet. Hosting video was expensive, and large sites that could pay for server space didn't focus on videos, but on games and animation.



YouTube was different.

It was just videos, many of which took the form of video diaries from ordinary people.



This emphasis on personal connection catapulted YouTube to complete domination of online video.



A year after its launch, digital empire Google bought the start-up for \$1.65 billion. Through the next decade the platform changed as technology evolved at rapid pace.



Whitney created her YouTube channel Black Essence in 2007.

I had just graduated from college and I wanted to educate and inspire.

YouTube made that platform possible. (I)t was sort of freeform. If it was legit and popular you got on the front page.



Back then, the most popular videos on YouTube were made by individuals or small groups of people. Today, they're made by massive media corporations.

EVOLUTION OF DANCE - JUDSONLAIPPLY

JUNE 2008

CUT CHEMIST FEAT. HYMNAL "WHAT'S THE ALTITUDE" - INTERNMARKET

PANDA DISCULPA LOS MALOS PENSAMIENTOS (EVANGELION) - DEUXJG

65 70 75 80 85 90 95
IN MILLIONS

ED SHEERAN - SHAPE OF YOU

JUNE 2018

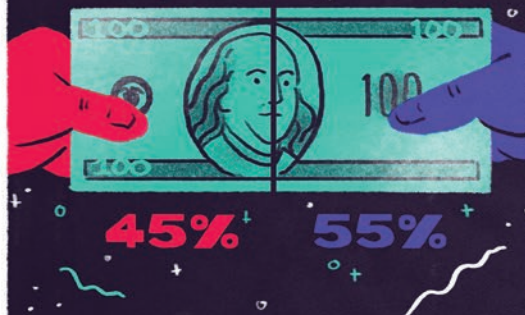
WIZ KHALIFA - SEE YOU AGAIN FT. CHARLIE PUTH

LUIS FONSI - DESPACITO FT. DADDY YANKEE

0 1 2 3 4 5 6
IN BILLIONS

That year, YouTube rolled out a new feature that fundamentally shifted the relationship between the creators and the platform.

THE PARTNER PROGRAM



Creators now share in revenue from television-like advertising on videos.

One of those early partners was Jesse Gouldsbury, who made video game and movie skits with his high school friends.



Full disclosure, he's also my husband.

In 2008 we made a couple hundred dollars per month. Basically enough to fund whatever our next video was.



Today he produces YouTube content for Ellation.



The budgets for our videos are much higher, in the thousands of dollars. We hire writers, editors, talent, and have a professional studio.

I spend a lot of my day looking at analytics: who's watching our videos, for how long, what else are they watching.

It's very different from writing jokes in a Friendly's and hoping people like them.



Creators today have to keep two things in mind: what their audience likes and what the algorithm likes.

Even slight changes in the algorithm can have huge impacts on creators. When YouTube started placing more emphasis on minutes watched than how many people click on the video, videos started getting longer.

AVERAGE VIDEO LENGTH IN MINUTES



MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IS CLICKS

MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IS "WATCH TIME"

Jonathan McIntosh has been making internet videos since 2002.

I started with remix videos...Remix was really popular on YouTube. They're mostly gone from YouTube now.



In 2017 he started making video essays on his channel Pop Culture Detective.



I wanted to counterbalance the culture that's taken hold on YouTube... It's a really toxic place and that wasn't true in the beginning.

YouTube has tried to distance itself from extremist content by tightening the requirements for their Partner Program and demonetizing videos that aren't advertiser friendly.



Content that isn't advertiser friendly includes Nazi screeds, yes, but also videos about trans issues and resources for survivors of sexual assault.

Creators across the political spectrum have decried this "adpocalypse" as censorship. Nasim Najafi Aghdam cited the censorship of her videos as a motivation for her 2018 shooting rampage and suicide at YouTube HQ.



Over the years competitors emerged, like Blip in 2005, which positioned itself as having more professional and niche content.



They were acquired by Maker Studios in 2013, in turn acquired by Disney in 2014.



But Blip couldn't beat the platform owned by the world's largest search engine. They shut down in 2015.

In 2014, Vidme launched as a "free-speech friendly" alternative to YouTube. They lasted three years.



But many creators, like Jonathan and Whitney, have turned to alternative platforms. Patreon creators can count on a fixed revenue every month, instead of Google's fickle algorithm.



The people are ready for a new video emperor. But this one just keeps kicking.

INKWELL

Rome Wasn't Built in a Day



Illustration by Matt Lubchansky

The Inkwell is our new membership program to sustain *The Nib* and keep us producing the best nonfiction and political cartoons.

By supporting us, you'll help make our work possible and gain access to exclusive merch and our secret handshake. Join us at thenib.com/inkwell.

THE  NIB



A Thousand Words Are Worth A Picture

Illustration, photography and
video from independent creators
at the forefront of culture.

VISIT TOPIC.COM

topic

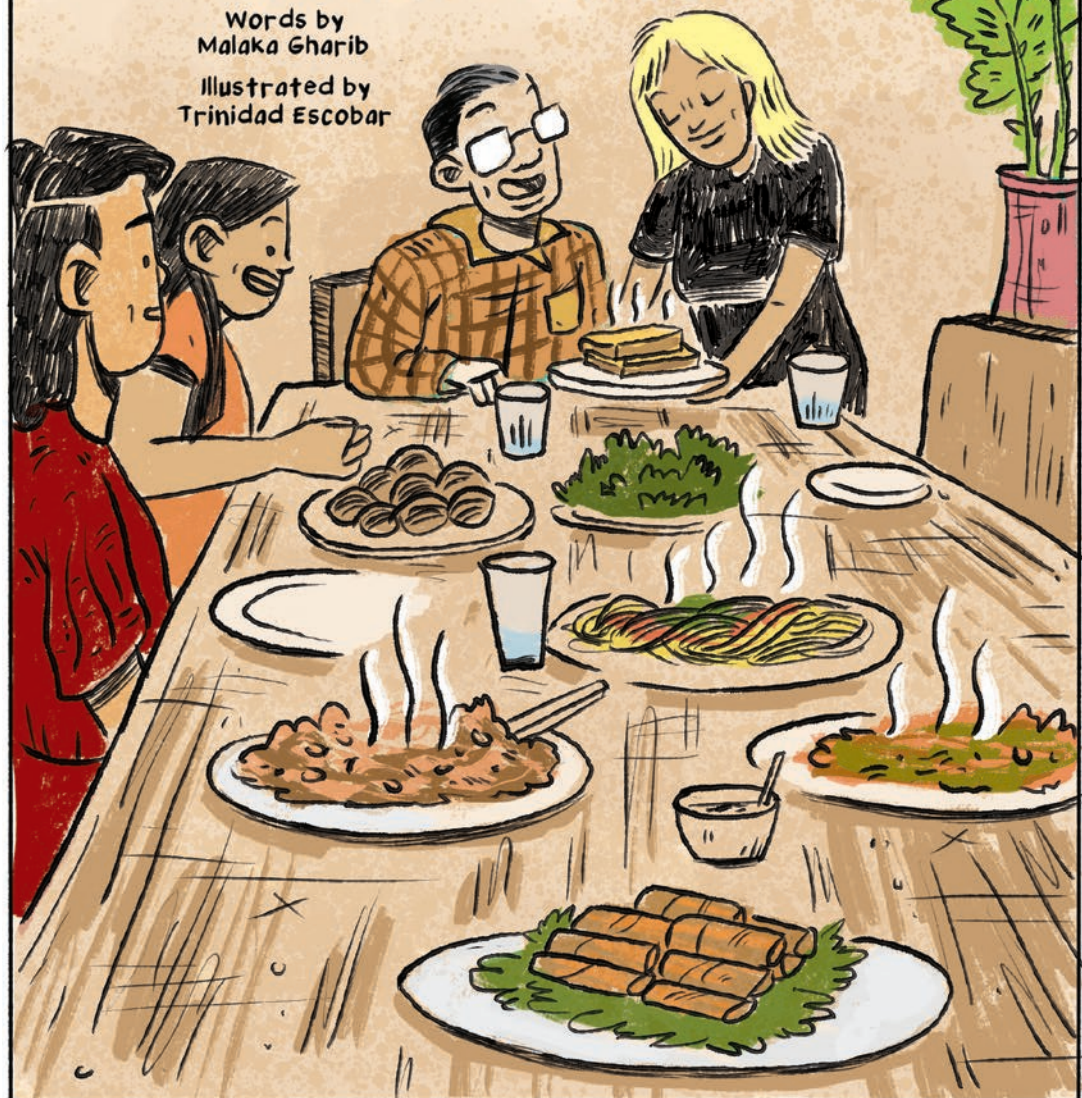
From Topic Issue No. 05 / Monologue with Masha Gessen

The Colonial Roots of Cheese Pimiento

A Filipina American discovers her favorite cheesy snack has a bloody origin story.

Words by
Malaka Gharib

Illustrated by
Trinidad Escobar



WHEN I WAS A KID, MY TITO MARO WOULD MAKE US CHEESE PIMIENTO, A POPULAR SANDWICH IN THE PHILIPPINES.



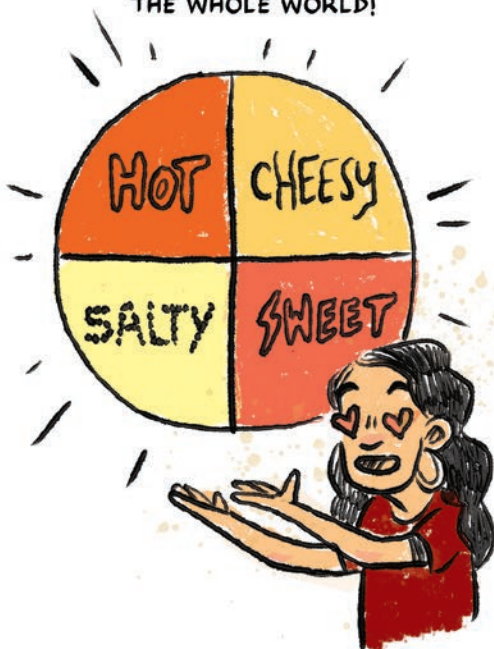
HE'D GRATE A BALL OF QUESO DE BOLA -- A BALL OF FILIPINO CHEESE-- MIX IT WITH MAYO, ADD TWO CANS OF DRAINED PIMIENTO PEPPERS, AND SEASON IT WITH SALT AND PEPPER.



HE'D SLATHER THIS MIX ON PAN DE SAL, PUT IT IN THE TOASTER OVEN, AND WE'D EAT IT FOR OUR MERIENDA -- SNACK -- AFTER SCHOOL.



IT BECAME ONE OF MY FAVORITE FOODS IN THE WHOLE WORLD!



AS I GREW OLDER, I MADE PIMIENTO FOR FRIENDS, ROOMMATES, AND BOYFRIENDS. IT WAS A WAY FOR ME TO SHARE MY CULTURE WITH THEM.

THIS IS REAL FILIPINO FOOD, PEOPLE!



... BUT MOSTLY I MADE IT FOR MYSELF WHEN I WAS HOMESICK.

MY SWEET, BEAUTIFUL CHEESE PIMIENTO!



BUT THEN, IN MY EARLY 20S, A BOYFRIEND AND I VISITED NASHVILLE.



PIMIENTO CHEESE WAS EVERYWHERE.

WOW, FILIPINO FOOD IS LIKE REALLY BIG HERE!



AND THEN IT HIT ME. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS THAT CHEESE PIMIENTO WASN'T INDIGENOUS TO THE PHILIPPINES.

IT'S BREAD AND CHEESE! WE'RE AN ISLAND NATION!



SO HOW DID THIS AMERICAN CHEESE SPREAD BECOME A QUINTESSENTIAL SNACK STAPLE IN THE PHILIPPINES?



HISTORIANS AREN'T EXACTLY SURE. BUT THE SNACK LIKELY HAS ROOTS IN COLONIALISM.

THE PHILIPPINES WAS A SPANISH COLONY FOR 400 YEARS. AFTER THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR OF 1898, THE USA TOOK POSSESSION OF THE COLONY. PHILIPPINE NATIONALISTS WEREN'T HAPPY WITH THAT—



THIS RESULTED IN THE PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR. AT LEAST 200,000 FILIPINO CIVILIANS DIED—MOSTLY FROM FAMINE AND DISEASE.



IN 1902, PRESIDENT MCKINLEY STRUCK A DEAL: IF FILIPINO FIGHTERS STOPPED THEIR "INSURRECTION," THE USA WOULD SET UP AN ELECTED ASSEMBLY AND (EVENTUALLY) GRANT THE COUNTRY INDEPENDENCE.

THEY WERE UNFIT FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT ... THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT FOR US TO DO BUT TO ... EDUCATE THE FILIPINOS AND UPLIFT AND CIVILIZE AND CHRISTIANIZE THEM.



THE USA DIDN'T GRANT THE PHILIPPINES INDEPENDENCE FOR 44 YEARS. IN THE MEANTIME, SOME OCCUPYING AMERICAN SOLDIERS STAYED IN THE COUNTRY.



MOST OF THE TROOPS AND PRIVATES WORKING IN THE MILITARY CAME FROM THE SOUTH.

HISTORIAN RENÉ
ALEXANDER ORQUIZA

PIMENTO CHEESE WAS ALREADY A POPULAR DISH IN THE SOUTH BY THEN, BORN FROM A SURPLUS OF PIMENTO PEPPERS IN THE LATE 1800S AND THE INVENTION OF CREAM CHEESE.

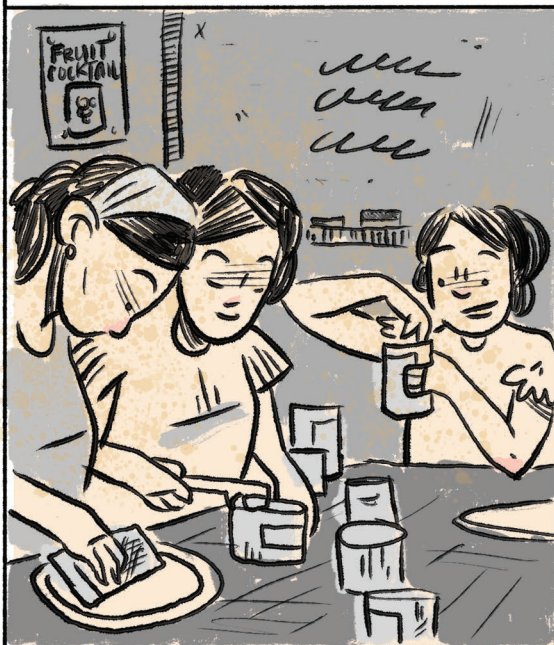


AFTER BEING CONTROLLED BY THE SPANISH FOR CENTURIES, FILIPINOS WERE ACCUSTOMED TO ADAPTING THE CUISINE OF THE COLONIZER.

WITH THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION
CAME AMERICAN IMPORTS OF
CANNED FOODS.



AMERICAN-LED HOME ECONOMICS
CLASSES TAUGHT YOUNG FILIPINO
GIRLS THAT THESE INGREDIENTS WERE
HEALTHIER AND "MORE SANITARY"
THAN NATIVE FILIPINO FOODS.

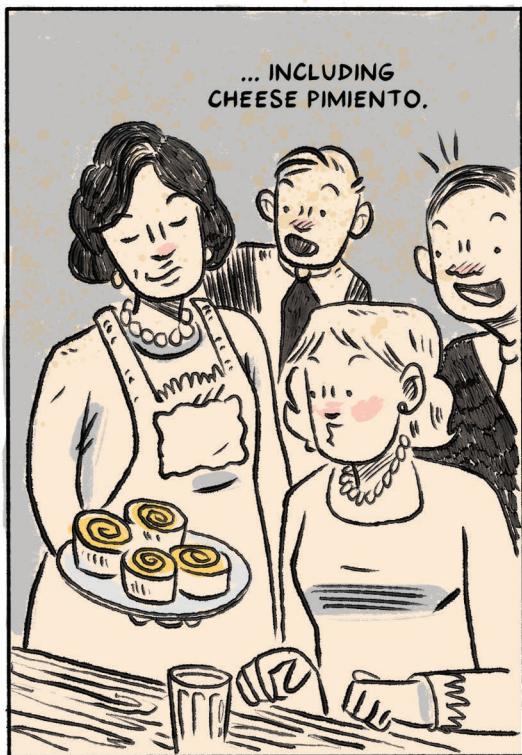


IT ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THE COLONIAL MIND-SET
THAT EATING AMERICAN FOOD WAS BETTER AND COULD BE EATEN
ONLY BY FILIPINOS RICH ENOUGH TO AFFORD IT ...

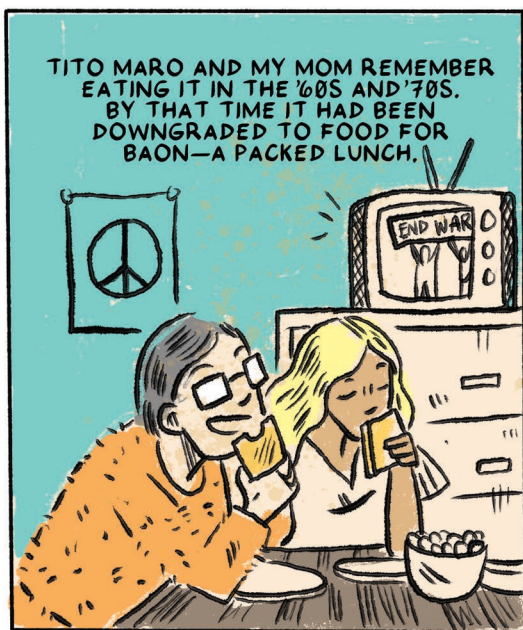


I WAS PROGRAMMED TO
THINK THAT EVERYTHING
THAT CAME IN A CAN WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD ...
BECAUSE IT'S EXPENSIVE
AND IMPORTED.

YANA GILBUENA,
FILIPINX AMERICAN CHEF
AND AUTHOR OF
NO FORKS GIVEN



MANY FILIPINOS REMEMBER CHEESE PIMIENTO AS A KRAFT-BRAND PRODUCT THAT CAME IN A JAR, BUT OTHERS REMEMBER MAKING IT FROM SCRATCH.



OVER THE GENERATIONS, CHEESE PIMIENTO BECAME A REGULAR PART OF THE FILIPINO LUNCH TRADITION, ENJOYED BY THE MASSES. GIVE "PIMENTO CHEESE" A QUICK GOOGLE AND YOU'LL FIND TONS OF RECIPES FOR IT ON FILIPINO FOOD WEBSITES, LABELED "FILIPINO FOOD" JUST LIKE OUR TRADITIONAL PANCIT AND LUMPIA DISHES.

SOME PEOPLE USE CANNED EVAPORATED MILK INSTEAD OF MAYO? BUT WHYYY?!

BUT LEARNING ABOUT THE COLONIAL AMERICAN ROOTS TAINTED MY ADORATION FOR THE SPREAD.

IT'S JUST A CONSTANT REMINDER OF A SECOND COLONIZATION.

PANDESAL AND QUESO DE BOLA—THOSE ARE FROM THE SPANIARDS! PIMIENTOS—THE AMERICANS! NOTHING ABOUT THIS IS FILIPINO!

THIS IS EXACTLY WHY SOME FILIPINO CHEFS, LIKE GILBUENA, REFUSE TO PREPARE THE SPREAD IN THEIR KITCHENS—OR COOK WITH INGREDIENTS LIKE SPAM.

BUT GEM DAUS, A FILIPINO AMERICAN PROFESSOR OF ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, REMINDS ME THAT MANY LONG-STANDING FILIPINO FOODS AREN'T REALLY FILIPINO.

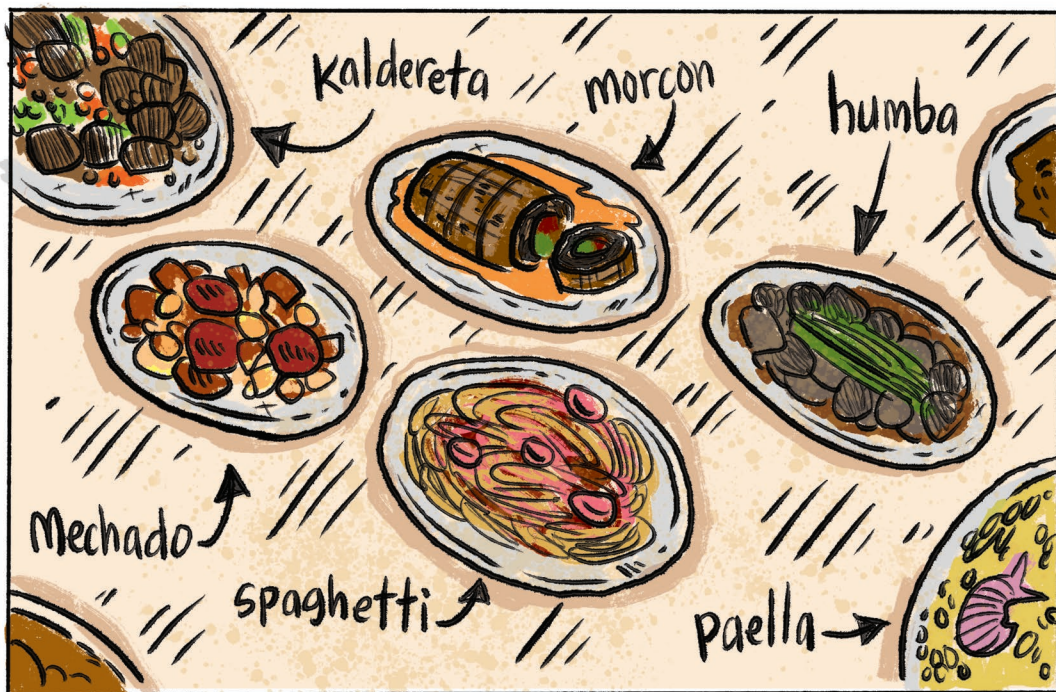
PANCIT AND LUMPIA ARE CHINESE IN ORIGIN, BUT THAT DOES NOT TAKE AWAY FROM THE PRIDE THAT WE SERVE IT WITH.



I THINK WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT IS THIS IDEA OF AUTHENTICITY. BUT IT'S SO SUBJECTIVE ... WHO'S TO SAY WHAT'S IN AND OUT?



THE PHILIPPINES HAS BEEN SUCH A CROSSROADS OF THE WORLD THAT OUR TRADITIONAL CUISINE IS FULL OF FOODS FROM ELSEWHERE. THE NAMES AND INGREDIENTS OF MANY DISHES COME FROM SPAIN, CHINA, INDIA, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND, YES, AMERICA.



BUT WHEN EACH DISH ARRIVED—WHETHER BY FORCE OR BY TRADE—FILIPINOS ADDED THEIR OWN LITTLE SPIN. THEY COOK IT TO THEIR TASTES, ADAPTING AND IMPROVISING UNTIL IT'S FAR FROM ITS FOREIGN ORIGINS.



IN THE HANDS OF FILIPINO COOKS, OVER THE YEARS SPANISH PAELLA INSPIRED THE FILIPINO BRINGHE, A RICE DISH THAT USES COCONUT MILK, STICKY RICE, AND A FLAVORED BARK INSTEAD OF SAFFRON.



CHINESE-MADE NOODLES BECOME FILIPINO PANCIT PALABOK, TOPPED WITH LOCAL SMOKED FISH AND SPANISH-ORIGIN FRIED PORK, SITSARON.



AND PIMENTO CHEESE BECAME CHEESE PIMENTO. THERE'S NOT REALLY MUCH DIFFERENCE IN THE RECIPE—IT'S STILL CHEESE AND MAYO ON BREAD—BUT WE DID REMIX THE NAME.



FILIPINO FOOD ISN'T JUST ABOUT WHERE IT CAME FROM. IT'S ABOUT HOW FILIPINOS MADE EACH FOOD THEIR OWN. BUT KNOWING ITS HISTORY, CAN CHEESE PIMENTO STILL FEEL LIKE MINE?



CITING FOOD HISTORIAN DAWN MABALON, PROFESSOR DAUS TELLS ME NOT TO QUESTION WHETHER A FILIPINO DISH IS "AUTHENTIC" BUT TO ASK A DIFFERENT QUESTION:



IS MY BELOVED CHEESE PIMIENTO STILL GOOD? I MADE A TOASTED SANDWICH RECENTLY—THE SAME WAY TITO MARO MADE IT.



IT WAS HOT, CHEESY,
SALTY, SWEET—
JUST LIKE
I REMEMBERED.

DANG.
IT'S STILL
DA BOMB.



Ben Passmore

FEATURES



of a COLONY



The Struggle for Land in Vieques

A year after Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico, my friends and I went to the island of Vieques, which is part of the larger island of Puerto Rico, to work on a community-oriented farm called Finca Conciencia.

Finca Conciencia was connected to Organización Boricua, an organization of Puerto Rican farmers focused on ecological agriculture.



Finca Conciencia is operated mostly by two farmers, Ana and Jorge.

To be real, I hate farming and my doughy cartoonist body wasn't ready for the constant manual labor. They both ran circles around me.

THIS THA BIG ONE!

A few days in I was stung by three bees. Ana said it was because the goddess Oshun was sending me a message, but I think it's because I was whining loudly by the beehives.

WHY?

Your love life must be a mess!

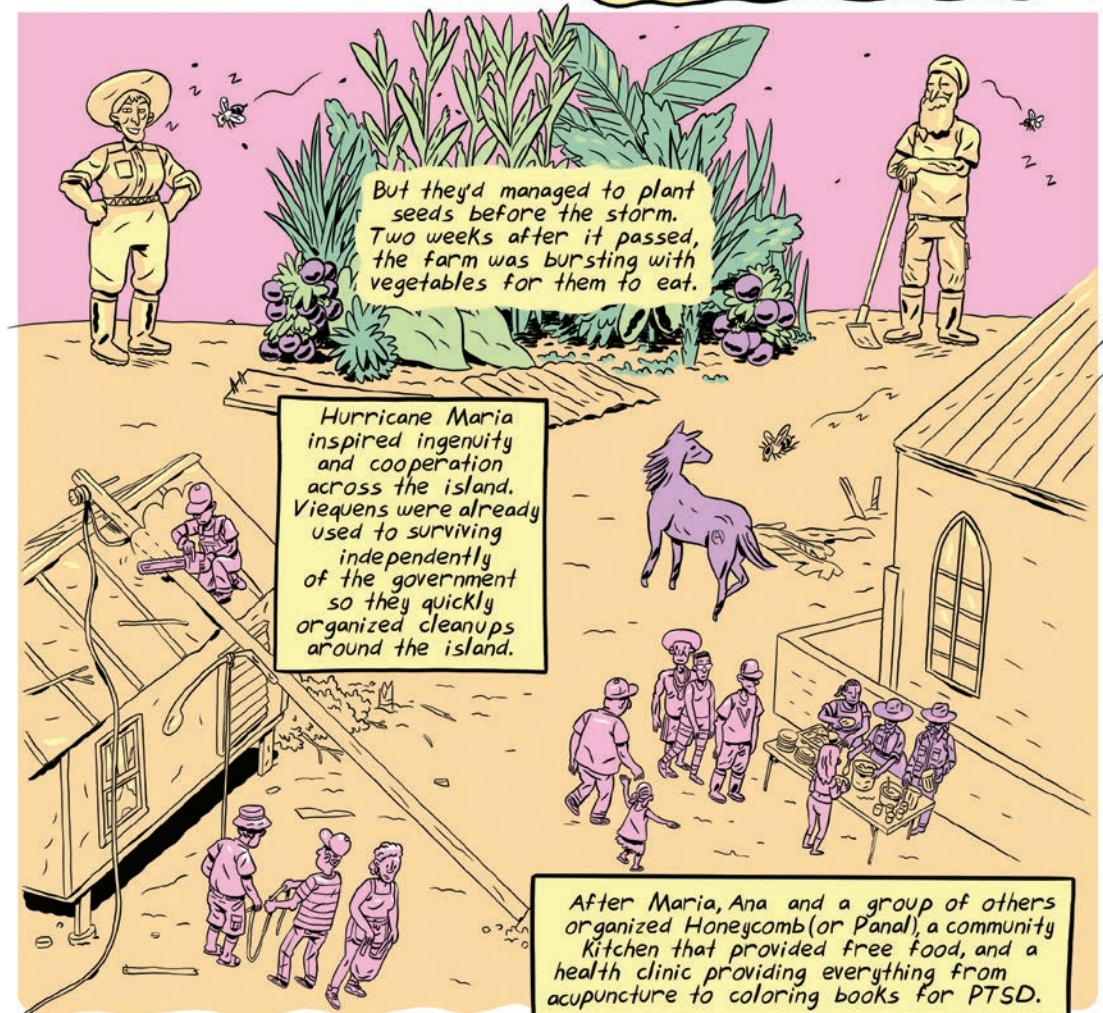
Ow!

Finca Conciencia is one of 12 "rescued land" communities, a movement started by islanders illegally occupying land after 60 years of the U.S. Navy using the island as a bombing range and base.

Prior to the Navy occupation in 1942, Vieques was a largely agrarian community. Now unexploded bombs as well as the copious amounts of mercury, lead, copper, magnesium, lithium, perchlorate, TNT, napalm, depleted uranium, PCBs, and solvents make farming difficult.



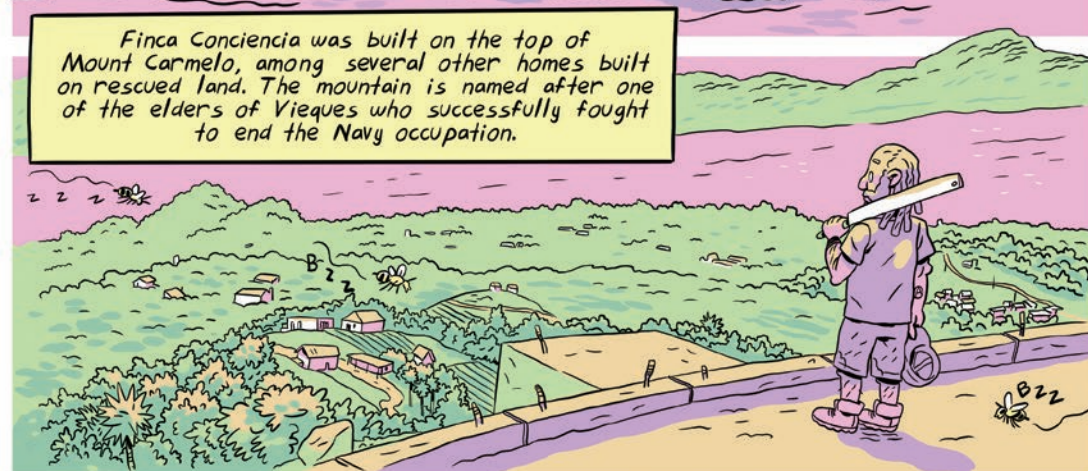
Still, the farm has been surviving for the last ten years, even braving Hurricane Maria. During the storm they lost crops, equipment, and their roof.



But they'd managed to plant seeds before the storm. Two weeks after it passed, the farm was bursting with vegetables for them to eat.

Hurricane Maria inspired ingenuity and cooperation across the island. Viequenses were already used to surviving independently of the government so they quickly organized cleanups around the island.

After Maria, Ana and a group of others organized Honeycomb (or Panal), a community Kitchen that provided free food, and a health clinic providing everything from acupuncture to coloring books for PTSD.



He used to disguise beehives as other kinds of containers. When the Navy came to evict people they would get chased out by the bees.

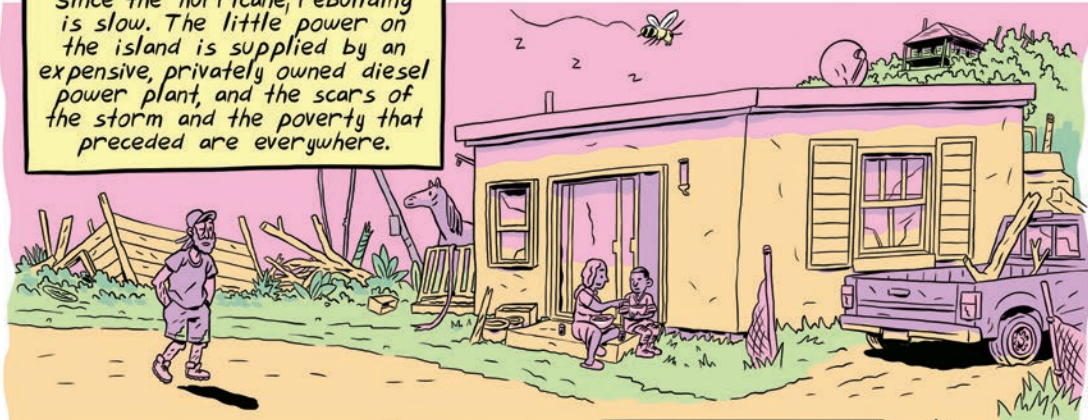
So the bees are a kind of protector/arbiter of the island.



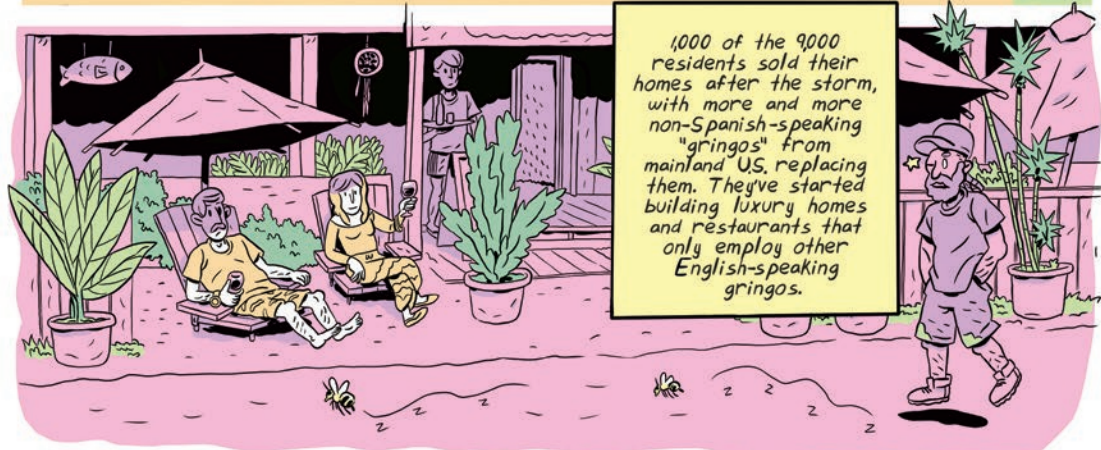
Vieques has a similar relationship to mainland Puerto Rico that Puerto Rico has to mainland United States. Their resources are limited and they rely on underwater pipes, which were only recently fixed, for water and power, and a ferry for most other things.



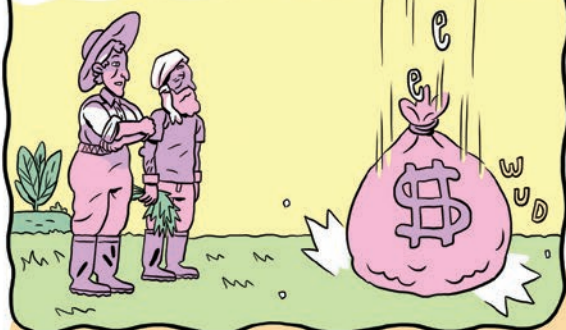
Since the hurricane, rebuilding is slow. The little power on the island is supplied by an expensive, privately owned diesel power plant, and the scars of the storm and the poverty that preceded are everywhere.



1,000 of the 9,000 residents sold their homes after the storm, with more and more non-Spanish-speaking "gringos" from mainland U.S. replacing them. They've started building luxury homes and restaurants that only employ other English-speaking gringos.



Even for people who spent years fighting the Navy, it's hard to say no when someone offers to drop a million dollars on you.



In response to gentrification, Ana and other community members have organized an effort to buy land from the government and incorporate it into a land trust for the common good called Maroon Beehive.



But their effort is still new and they have a wild, uphill battle. Recently Ana told me that land prices have skyrocketed since the storm, costing a million dollars for 1/3 of an acre in some cases.



Viequens have focused on nourishing each other and their land, but it might not be enough. They might have to defend their homes like their bees do.





THE BENIN BRONZES Nigeria

Stolen 1897

"Can we consider this an exclusively legal matter? I do not think so. The need to bring back to Africa as much as possible of its identity is deeply felt by its people."

- Lionel Zinsou, former prime minister of Benin

Let Them Eat Comics



GIVE a GIFT MEMBERSHIP today!

Let's face it, times are tough and they may get tougher. At *The Nib*, we try to improve society somewhat — through hilarious political cartoons, thoughtful comic essays,

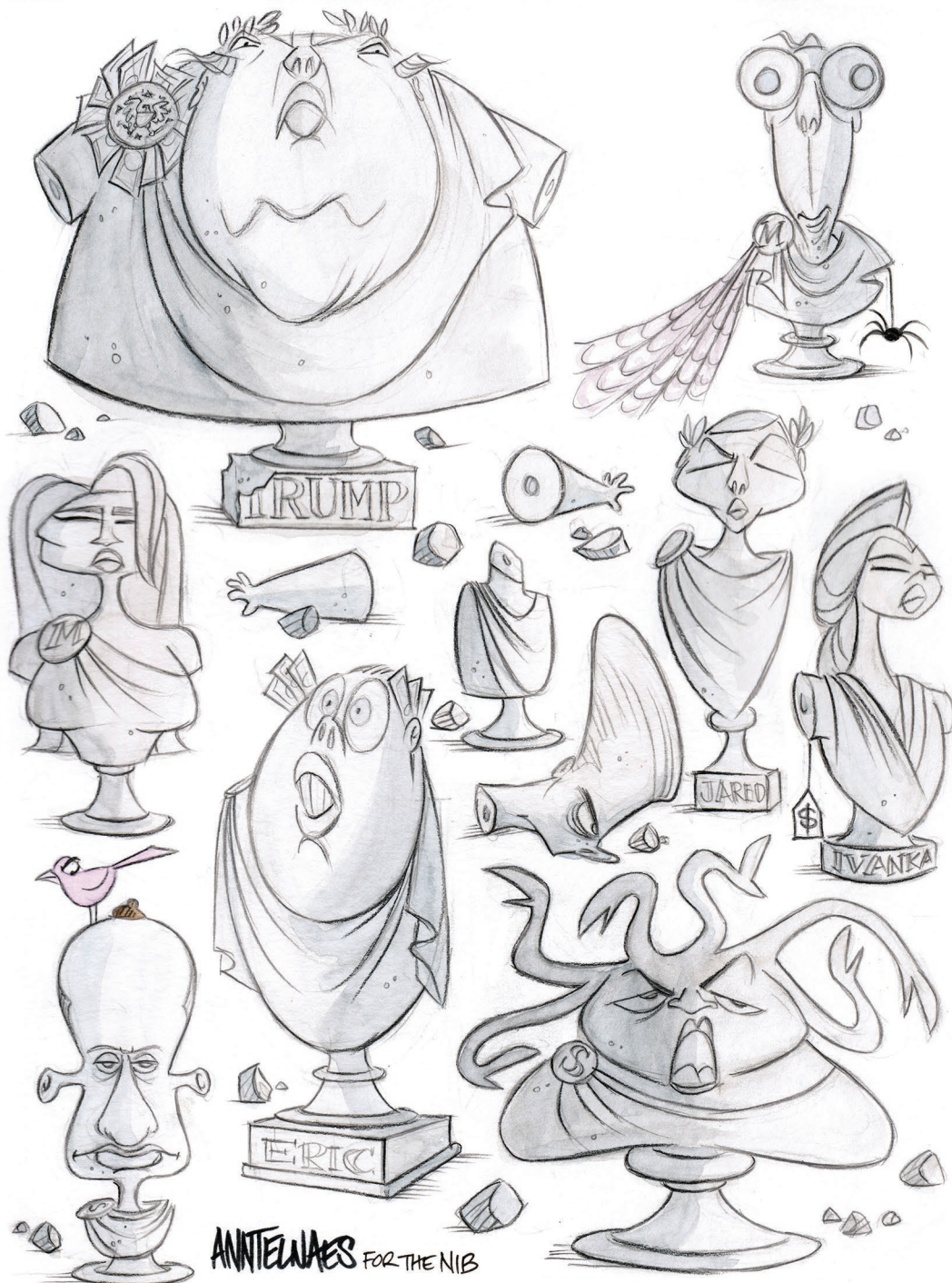
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THE  IB

Illustration by Matt Lubchansky



BUSTS of the TRUMPIAN EMPIRE

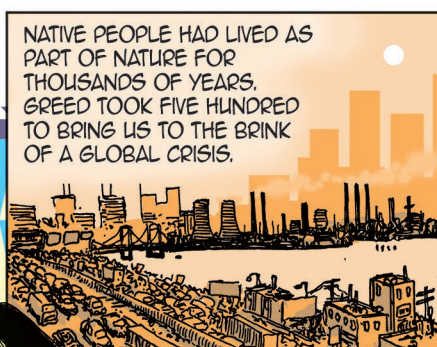
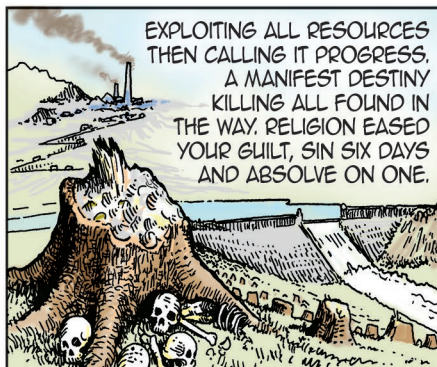




Amazon Troopers: Special Delivery

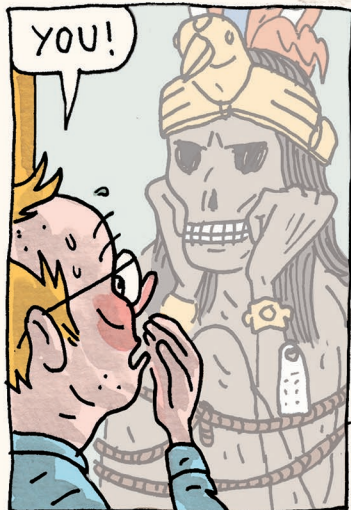




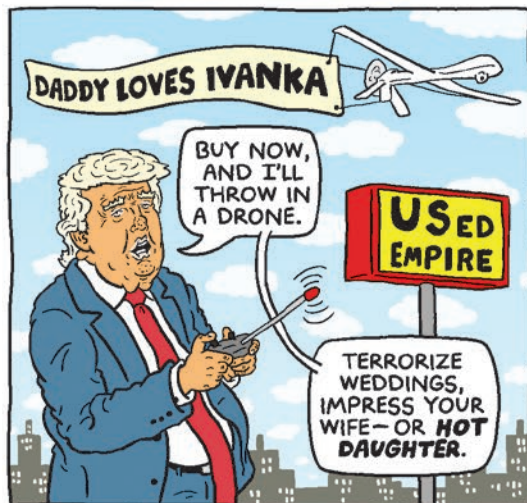
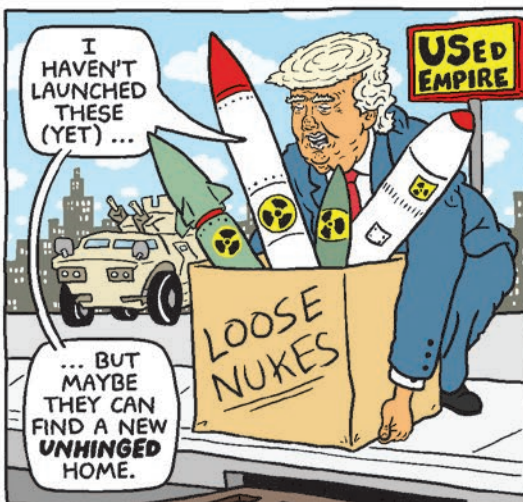


AWAKEN, SHAKE OFF THE YOKE OF GREED, LOOK PAST OURSELVES, AND UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE AN INDIVIDUAL, A PART OF A COMMUNITY, A COUNTRY, AND THIS WORLD. TO SURVIVE, WE ALL HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO LIVE AND WORK TOGETHER ON THIS SPINNING BALL OF DIRT.









The COLLAPSE OF CIVILIZATION FUN PAGE

CAN YOU FIND YOUR WAY TO SAFETY AND AVOID THE MANY THREATS TO OUR CIVILIZATION?*



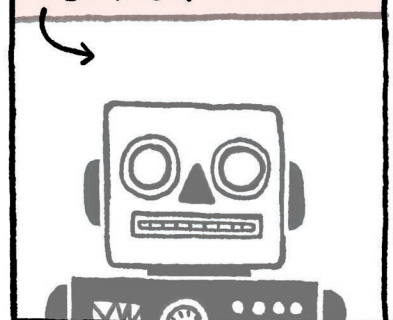
* NO, YOU CAN'T, SORRY

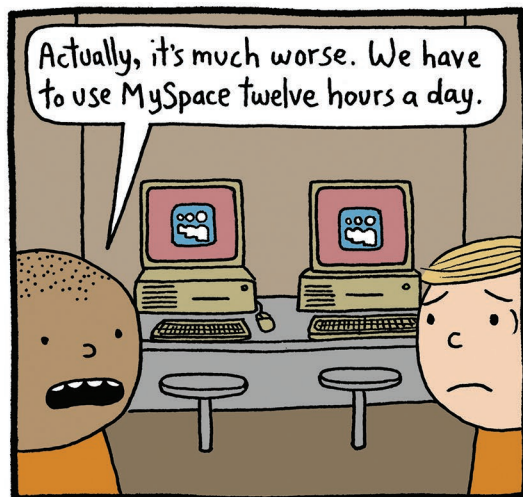
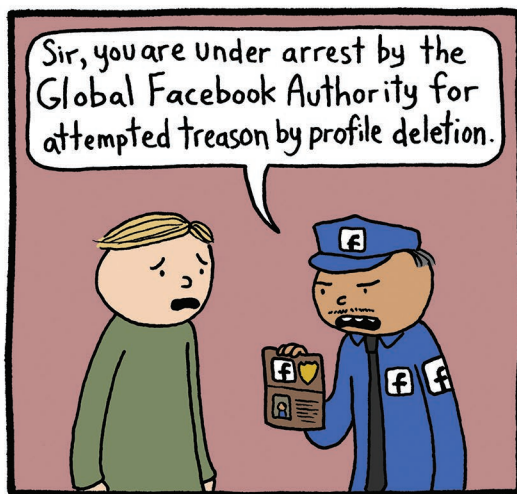
QUIZ WHO WILL BE FIRST TO PERISH WHEN THE APOCALYPSE COMES?

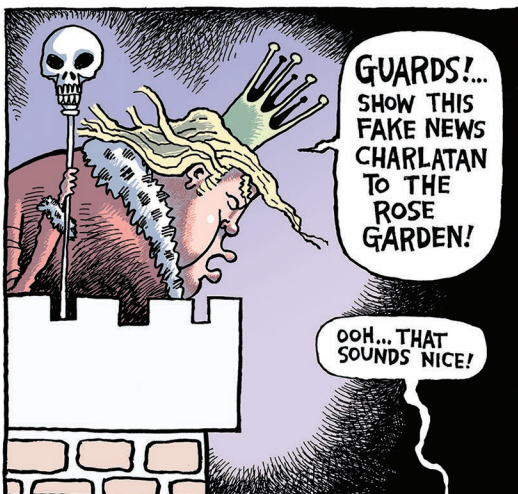
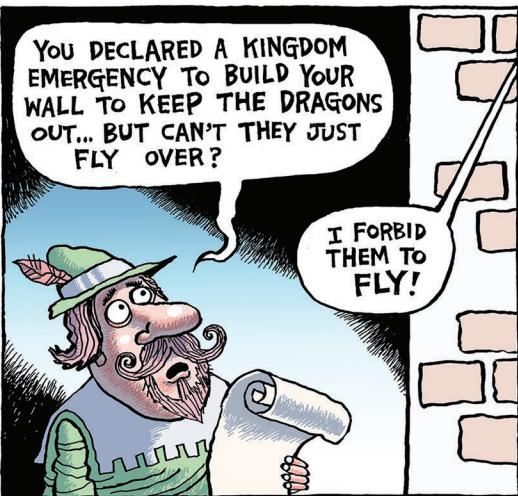


Ⓐ HUNTER Ⓑ TECHIE Ⓒ WARRIOR Ⓓ CARTOONIST

DESIGN A CROWN FOR YOUR NEW ROBOT OVERLORD







THE ROYAL WE

HEROES OF THE NEW AMERICAN CENTURY



LITTLE LORD STARBUCKS
A Man of Means



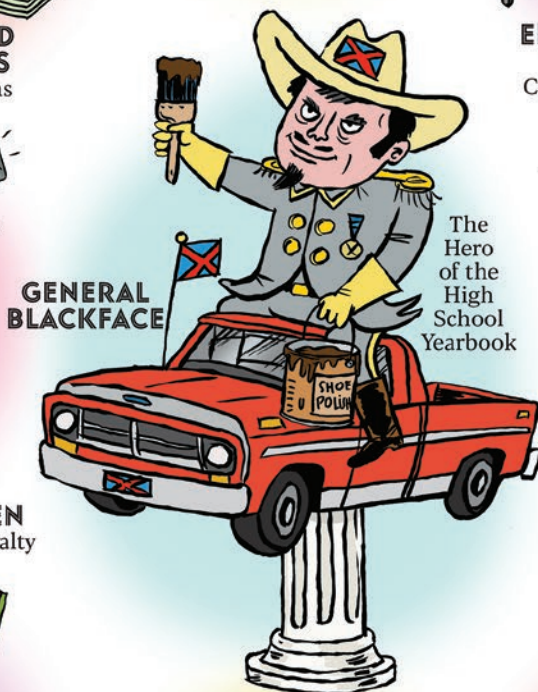
@SIR_TROLL765238
Tweeter in Chief



EMPEROR OF THE CUL DE SAC
Conqueror of Suburbia



THE INSTA QUEEN
Product Placement Royalty



GENERAL BLACKFACE

The Hero of the High School Yearbook



PRINCE PROUD BOY
The Martyr of Charlottesville



LADY OF THE TERFS
Heroine at Birth



THE DUKE OF DIABETES
Nouveau Riche Mouthfeel



THE SUNCOAST KING
Keeping Florida, Florida



In a weekly podcast that dives into crucial social issues, Jeremy Scahill talks to writers, thinkers, and artists who challenge our preconceptions about the world we live in.

INTERCEPTED



Letters to the Editor

Drawn by Matt Bors

I WILL BE FARMING WHEAT, HOPS, AND APPLES FOR BREWING BEER AND CIDER TO HELP US ALL DROWN OUT THE SCREAMS OF THE MUTANTS. - JOHNNY



I WILL BARTER FOR FOOD USING MY 'MAGIC THE GATHERING' CARDS AS PORTABLE FIRE STARTERS SO PEOPLE CAN EAT ROASTED RAT. - MARK D.



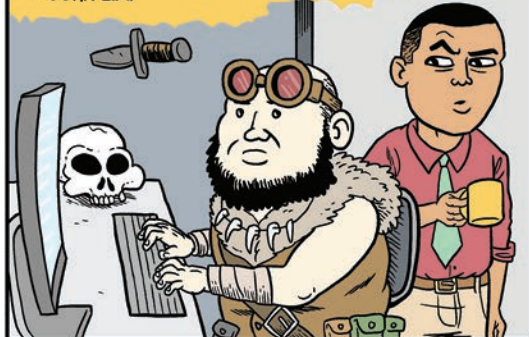
I WOULD FIND AS MUCH ABANDONED LAND AS POSSIBLE AND BECOME A HOME FOR ANY LEFT-BEHIND PETS TO LIVE OUR FURRY LIVES IN PEACE. - MEG



IN THE POSTAPOCALYPSE I WILL WANDER, TRYING TO TRADE HOT TAKES FOR WATER AND FOOD. - KELSEY A.



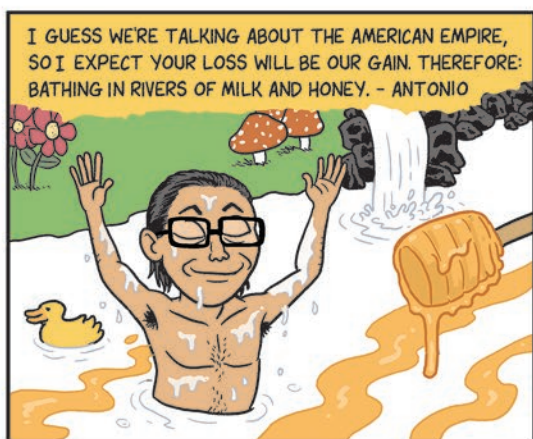
THE EMPIRE HAS ALREADY COLLAPSED. THE NEWS JUST HASN'T REACHED EVERYONE. - JOHN E.M.



FINALLY GET TO ALL THOSE UNREAD BOOKS THAT'RE WAITING FOR ME TO "HAVE THE TIME." - MICHAEL R.



Climate collapse, nuclear war, Trump's tweets... one way or another, human civilization doesn't seem long for this world. We asked The Nib's Inkwell members to tell us what they'll do after the empire collapses.



Masthead

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review purposes, please.

Contributors

SIR ROB ROGERS,
knight o' the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* roundtable, twas banished from the kingdom. Wherefore, we knoweth not. Caricatures o' the king, methinks. He doth continue to cartoon hither and yon.

SIR FISH
draws pictures yond that maketh the king heave the gorge and screameth.

TRINIDAD ESCOBAR
doth teach "Race & Comics"
at ye venerable California
College of the Arts.

MALAKA GHARIB
is a writ'r and artist from
Washington, D.C. The lady is
the auth'r of *I Wast Their
Am'rican Dream*.

VICTORIA LOMASKO,
hailing from yond Kievan Rus,
tis an artiste who doth
illuminated tales make.

ROSA COLÓN,
borneth on the isle of
Puerto Rico, writeths
and draweths pictures
in sequence.

Also Featuring:

Spencer Ackerman, Hussein Adil, Kasia Babis,
Gemma Correll, Ellen Crenshaw, Sofie Louise Dam,
Andrew Greenstone, Tom Humberstone, Mark Kaufman,
Max Loh, Mariah-Rose Marie, Fionn McCabe, Brian McFadden,
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THE SUN NEVER SETS ON the NiB



Illustration by Matt Lubchansky

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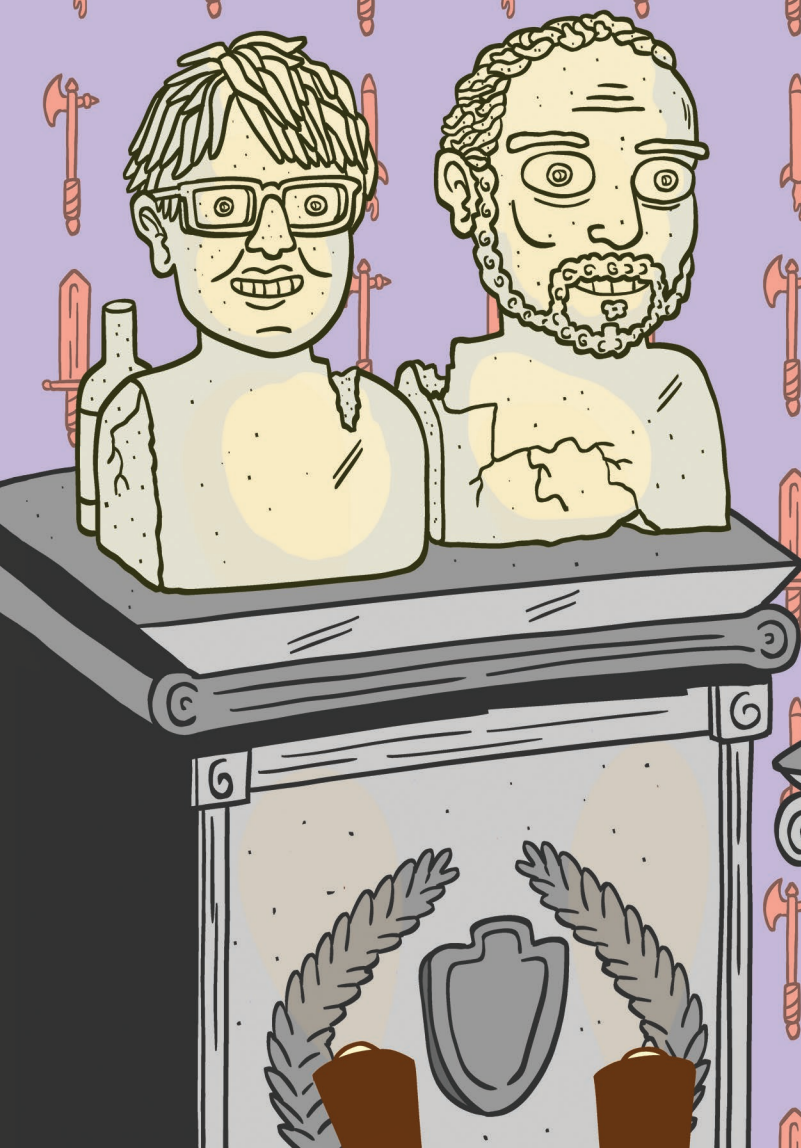
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THE  NIB

- the INKwell - - Hall of Fame -

Rome wasn't built in a day,
and neither was The Nib.
These especially generous
members help make this
publication possible! We depend
on our membership to keep our
fledgling comics empire going.
Illustrated by Matt Lubchansky.

LANA AND NORM BURMESTER



DAVID SAYLOR





IMPERIAL TREASURES
China

Stolen 1860

"You can scarcely imagine the beauty and magnificence of
the places we burnt. It made one's heart sore to burn them."

- Captain Charles George Gordon



2049

After failing to keep up with new postapocalyptic technologies, including zombie scrimshaw tales, fireside puppet stories, and humanoid/robot communications, The Nib files for bankruptcy.



2050

Hedge fund run by the Trump-era, alt-right cartoonist Ben Garrison buys up the remains of The Nib for its real estate assets.



Empire

Power is always precarious.

And the bigger the empire, the harder it falls. In this issue, 30 artists from around the world explore the impact of empire, from Puerto Rico's sugarcane fields to the inner workings of YouTube.

Featuring:

Stolen items in the British Museum, a trip down Iraq's Highway of Death, four artists on decolonizing their lives, the colonial roots of cheese pimiento, a fan's reflection on *The Bachelor*'s mighty television army, and much more.

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